


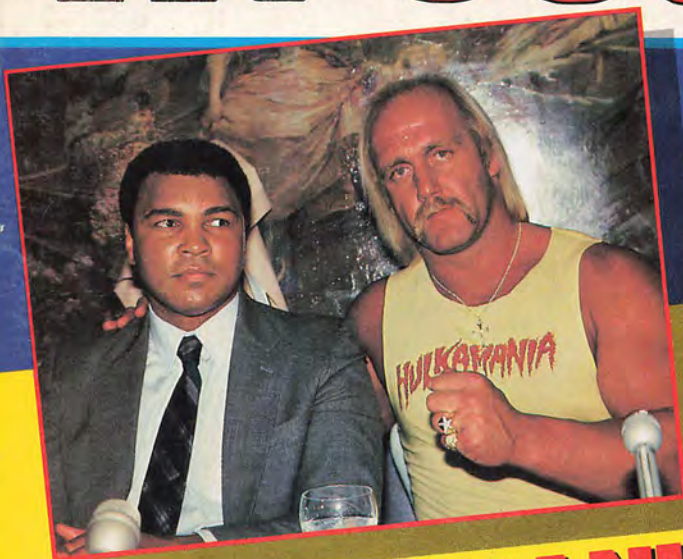
**SPORTS REVIEW**

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47817  July 1985

# Wrestling



**BLOOD MONEY!**  
Wrestling's  
Goriest Moments!

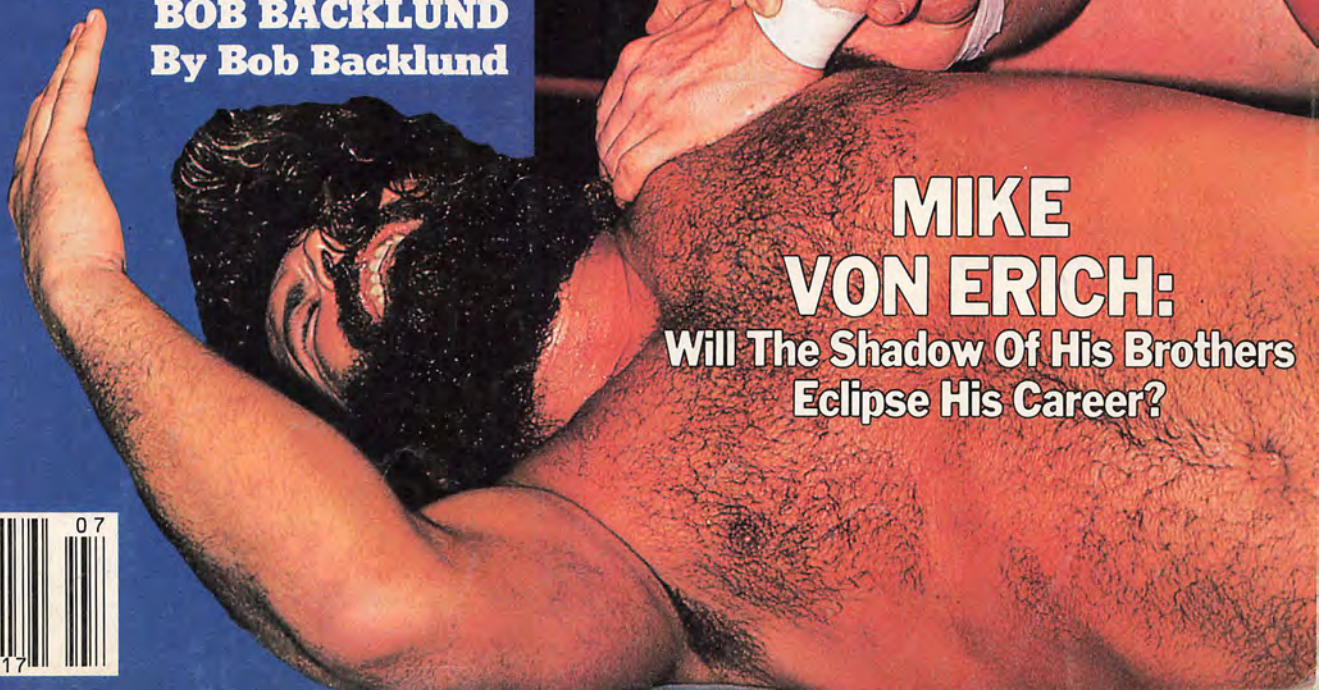


## WRESTLE-MANIA!

Behind The Scenes At Wrestling's  
Biggest Promotion Ever

**PAUL JONES:**  
"I CAN MAKE SUPERSTAR  
GRAHAM GREAT AGAIN!"

Special Analysis:  
**WHAT'S WRONG WITH  
BOB BACKLUND**  
By Bob Backlund



**MIKE  
VON ERICH:**  
Will The Shadow Of His Brothers  
Eclipse His Career?





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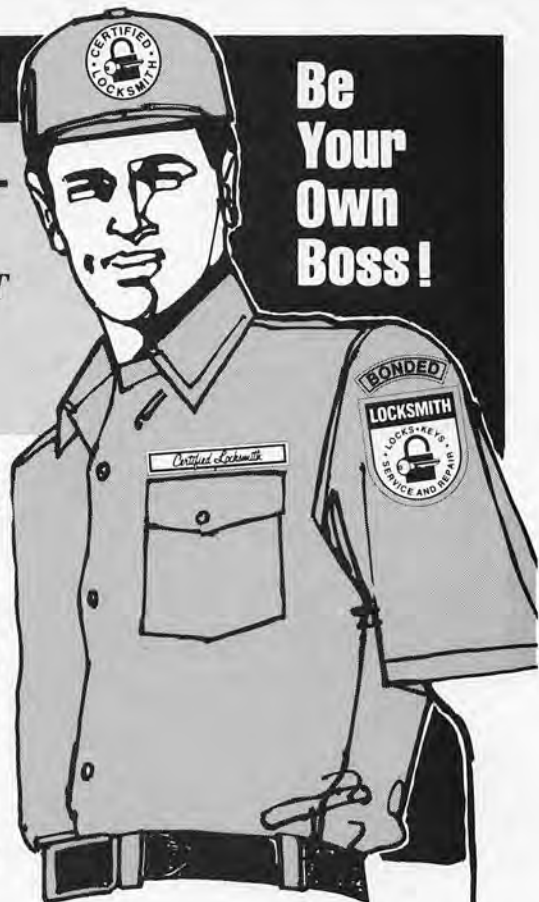
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## SKINNY ISN'T ATTRACTIVE

If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthy. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

## GAIN STAMINA AND SELF-CONFIDENCE TOO.

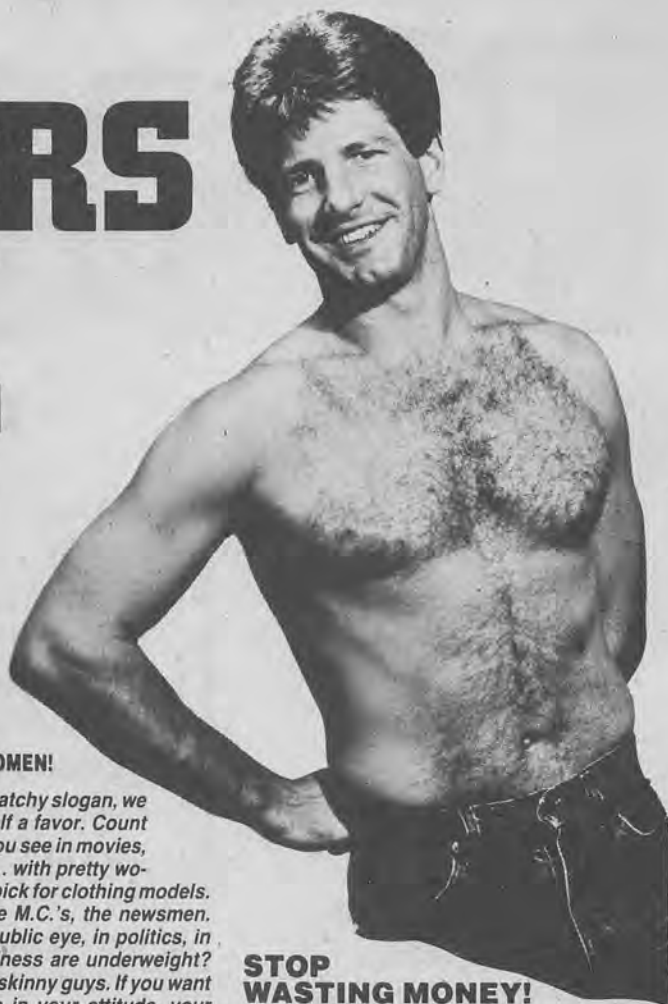
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

## GAIN WEIGHT! GAIN WOMEN!

*If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.*

## LOOK BETTER AND FEEL BETTER WHILE YOU GAIN

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Some fellows, who've been trying hard to gain weight, resort to all sorts of methods to do so: professional exercise sessions, costly nutritional regimens, large investments in health foods, time-consuming weight-building programs. Yet, here, at an extremely affordable price, you are offered a product so elementary, so easy-to-take, yet so effective we offer it to you without any greater effort than filling out and mailing a coupon. You don't even have to go to a store for it. And unlike any other method, product, means or procedure, we **GUARANTEE *ShapeUp*** to the point of total freedom from risk of any kind.

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# Wrestling

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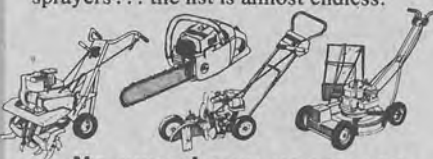
In just a short time, you can be ready to join one of the fastest growing industries in America... an industry where qualified men are making from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per hour... and that's just for labor. Parts, engines and accessories add even more to the profits.



Because the small engine industry has grown so quickly, an acute shortage of qualified Small Engine Professionals exists throughout the country. In fact, it's not unusual for a good small engine man to be three to four weeks behind in the summer and at least a week behind in the winter. When you see how many small engines are in use today, it's easy to understand why qualified men command such high prices — as much as \$49.95 for a simple tune-up that takes less than an hour!

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## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I'm writing in regard to the "We Accuse" that appeared in the May 1985 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*. Although some of us in Seattle have never seen Billy Haynes wrestle, we still

support him 100 percent. Shakespeare once said that "a rose by any other name, is still a rose," thus, Billy Jack may now be Billy Haynes but he's still the same great wrestler. Anybody who would put their family before fame



Billy Haynes' Seattle fans have remained loyal in spite of his name change, writes Sylvia Knopp. "Anybody who would put their family before fame and fortune should be looked up to in my book," she writes.

and fortune should be looked up to in my book. When a woman marries, her name is changed but that doesn't diminish her physically or mentally. The devotion that Billy Haynes has for his family is very touching and he should be commended instead of condemned for it. Seattle loves you, Billy!

SYLVIA KNOPP  
Seattle

## RAPPING RODDY

I'm writing in response to Mark Goepel's letter in the May 1985 *Sports Review Wrestling* praising Roddy Piper for what he did to Lou Albano and Jimmy Snuka. How great can a wrestler be if he sneak-attacks others and hits them with plaques and coconuts? Roddy Piper is a low-life particle of scum who should be exiled to the soggy marshes of his native Scotland. And if Mr. Goepel thinks that Roddy Piper is great, then he is as big of a dirtball as Roddy Piper.

IGOR ZASLAVSKY  
Brooklyn, NY

## SHELVE THE PILEDRIIVER

There are two moves in professional wrestling that my friends and I do not like and they are the piledriver and neckbreaker. They have caused a great many wrestlers to retire prematurely due to injuries. Eddie Gilbert, although I am not a big fan of his, suffered a broken neck from a corkscrew neckbreaker while he was wrestling in the WWF. Having upwards of 400 pounds of pressure land on one's neck is insanity. The chances of a fatality in the ring are great whenever those two moves are used. Before anyone gets killed, wrestling officials should ban those maneuvers.

MELVIN MARSHALL  
Hempstead, NY

## DODO BIRDS?

In the May '85 issue of *Sports Review* there appeared a story that described The Freebirds' war against Ric Flair and their intentions of taking away his NWA title. These men truly have bird brains to go along with their

(Continued on page 50)



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YOUR luck is about to get so much better that it will amaze you and absolutely devastate those who do not wish you well. No longer will you stand aside and watch others with a fraction of your capabilities flash their bankrolls, brag about their good fortune, show off their possessions and make you wonder if Lady Luck thinks you don't exist. Your sun is rising. Your spirits are going to fly. You will soon realize your great potential. I, Xenox, am in your corner. I will make your tide turn and show you how to take it at the crest and bring joy to your life. I want to induce you to become part of my Super-Luck Network... a chain of men and women to whom I am about to pass some fantastic powers.

Become part of the world's only metaphysical network, where the sole purpose is to send its members waves of good luck!

Just like you receive radio and television waves, you will receive my broadcast of LUCK WAVES but not through the medium of electronics, a more highly esoteric medium, thought waves or brain waves, if you will. And they will not only carry a verbal or graphic signal but a more penetrating and motivating kind, a charge of spectacular good luck that will form an aura about you that will attract and imprint all the marvelous, glorious good things upon your being that you have hoped, wished and prayed for all your life. To direct my psychic forces to you and to have you prepared to receive them at their fullest and most penetrating, I will provide you with the paraphernalia you need, along with a schedule of broadcast times and other simple instructions. I have tried my communication method on persons of all walks of life, of every age, women and men alike and it works so well and with such gratifying results that the Super-Luck Network was bound to result. It's my way of getting my powers to the maximum number of people in the shortest time. But remember... the number of members must, of course, be limited or my signal may become too diluted and weakened... so please act now or membership may have to be closed.

Isn't it time some of the good things of life came your way: like love, money, power, possessions, luxury, comfort, health?

I don't know how long you've waited for good luck. But some folks wait a lifetime for the things they crave and never quite reach their goals. My heart goes out to them. I want to put my arm around them and say, "Here's a packet of wishes that will come true for you." And this is my way of doing it. 365 days a year I will radiate my super luck aura to you at pre-scheduled times and I want you tuned in to receive my special 4th dimensional broadcasts. You'll just be bathed in a glow of great feeling.

**THE WORLD OF PSYCHIC PHENOMENA HAS YET TO BE FULLY REALIZED. THAT'S WHY XENOX'S POWERS CONTINUE TO AMAZE SCIENTISTS!**

Hamlet said, "There are more things on heaven and earth, Horatio, than is dreamed of in our philosophy." And each day we prove that he was right. Who, in 1940 would have imagined even black and white TV, let alone color? Putting a man on the moon was an idea snickered at just a few short years ago. ESP is now being studied in the research centers of the world and new, astounding findings are surfacing week by week. No more thorough study nor scholarly research is being done nor has been pursued than by Xenox himself and he has every reason to believe he is ahead of the entire world in psychic phenomena. His efforts in the projection of fortunate coincidence are eons ahead of his time and there has been no stone left unturned in his efforts to uncover the mysteries of those parts of the globe no man has studied before.

Famous Xenox will beam his mighty powers straight to you every evening to elevate your good luck to new heights through his metaphysical, computer-generated mystic forces once you have put to work the Xenox brain-wave receiver.



GET MY 4TH DIMENSION TUNE-IN KIT AND START RECEIVING!

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The more receivers we have the more powerful the ESP reception and influence.

While it is true that having too many receivers will dilute the power of my broadcasts, it is best to have a full quota as my kind of ESP works best when a fairly large body of receptors are tuned in. While it is true that there are a great many folks who need good luck, it would please me most if those who need it most are tuned in. If you already have more than your share of the good things of life, like love and wealth and good robust health, perhaps it would be best if you gave those less fortunate a chance. You see, our enrollment is limited and we may have to turn some more needy folks away. We urge you to use your discretion.

**XENOX** is a nationally known scholar of the occult who is descended from a long line of mystics, seers and practitioners of the psychic, the mysterious, the baffling phenomena of our universe.

He has been a guest on talk shows and has been favorably reviewed for his supernatural sophistication. Unlike old-fashioned mystics of the past and present, Xenox is well-educated in modern science, applying the newest physics discoveries to the world of the strange, the bizarre and the inscrutable. He challenges scholars and purveyors of today's knowledge to explain such phenomena as acupuncture, the practice of witch doctor and the workings of witchcraft. Xenox is conversant with true magic, as opposed to the kind used on stage and on TV, applying to it the deep appreciation of its origins and application for the betterment of human existence. He has enriched his own life and understanding by explorations where no other mortal has ever dared to tread and has entered many a realm of forbidden insight and knowledge. Many have sought his oracles and counsel. Many a troubled mind has found peace and tranquility through this man's advice and superior judgement. Yet, he has never sought large fees or personal aggrandizement. He has always considered that his great wisdom is a special gift and exploiting it for personal gain was inappropriate as it has been a family tradition to help others. Thus the gift is preserved and passed on to future generations. He is a master of Kapor-Endelle but has never harmed anyone. He has successfully mastered "The Powers of Gold" and has attained Shoktsa Xenox in the original sense. He is the first of his kind to transmit the power of chance over any distance successfully.

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Xenox does not want your money and only wants to be paid for what he sends you IF... and only IF... it produces large sums of money for you. Unless it DOES and he is assured that it does, he insists that we REFUND your money... every cent of it, less his powers be contaminated. Therefore, following his strict insistence we say IT WORKS TO YOUR COMPLETE SATISFACTION OR WE BUY BACK WHAT WE SENT YOU.

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# THE TATTLER



**SUNSHINE**

**D**ALLAS, TX: World Class wrestling fans were overjoyed to see that Sunshine has enlisted the aid of Hercules Hernandez in her campaign to rid Texas of such notorious rulebreakers as Chris Adams, Gino Hernandez, and Rip Oliver.

Now, Sunshine's army has doubled in size: She recently acquired the contract of Kabuki, formerly managed by Gary Hart.

"I bought Kabuki's contract directly from Japanese promoters," Sunshine explained. "Kabuki was negotiating with Gary Hart, but they haven't been getting along too well these days. I heard about Kabuki's availability from a close friend, and I managed to work my way into the talks and get his contract.

"This is going to be great," Sunshine continued. "Not only will I have Hercules Hernandez working toward Jim Cornette and his minions, but I'll have Kabuki working against Gary Hart! Hernandez was managed by Cornette once, and knows a lot of his tricks, and the same goes for Kabuki and Hart. This gives me an advantage over the two of them that has been unheard of anywhere in wrestling. Until now!"

—Andrew Ray

**A**TLANTA, GA: The fate of the National tag team title will be determined in a special match to be held April 28 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

(Continued on page 54)

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# The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

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giving these experts a forum for their views month, we'll ask a controversial question

answer—no matter what those answers might be!

and opinions. Each and have the fans



Adrian Street poses with his valet—and sometimes bodyguard—Miss Linda. Linda was recently piledriven by Randy Savage, sparking the question of whether a male wrestler has the right to physically retaliate when a woman attacks him.

## THE QUESTION:

*"In the August 1985 issue of Pro Wrestling Illustrated, reporter Liz Hunter addresses the issue of female valets who interfere in matches. Among the questions raised are, 'should male wrestlers be able to retaliate against these women who ferociously interfere' and 'should women be allowed at all at ringside during men's matches?' How do you feel about this increasingly controversial issue?"*

## THE ANSWERS:

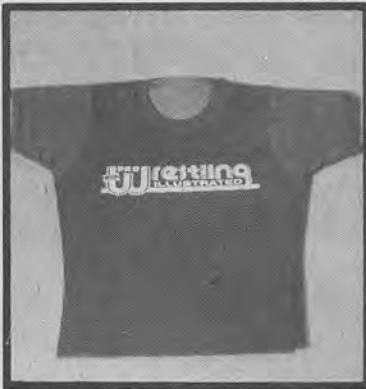
*Harriet Jefferson, Cleveland: "Women should know better. Precious, Miss Linda, Sunshine, and their lot are nothing but a bunch of publicity craving hussies. Who are they kidding, messing around with professional athletes three times their size? If they want to get involved in the ring, they should don tights and become women wrestlers. I have nothing against a woman supporting her man, but they must be reasonable. They can't expect to have carte blanche in hitting men. They're gonna get killed!"*

*Scott Lundy, Lake Tahoe, NV: "It's not even a question of equal rights. A valet has no more place in a wrestling ring than I have in a cage with a wild*

*(Continued on page 56)*



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From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

**I**MAGINE NEW YORK Mets pitcher Dwight Gooden appearing on *The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson*. Carson asks Gooden to demonstrate his fastball while he acts as

catcher. Gooden, knowing that Carson wouldn't be able to handle his 95-mile-per-hour fastball, lets loose and beans Carson in the forehead. The comedian is knocked unconscious and, as blood

streams down his sportjacket, he is taken to a hospital where he is given eight stitches for a gash in his head.

Imagine boxing great Sugar Ray Leonard appearing on *The Merv Griffin Show*. After bantering with Leonard for a few minutes, Merv asks the former welterweight champion of the world to spar with him. Leonard and Griffin put on the gloves, stand toe to toe, and in a flurry of punches the talk show host is knocked unconscious. Blood streams down Griffin's face from a huge cut over his left eye. Griffin is taken to a nearby hospital where it takes eight stitches to close the

(Continued on page 64)



Hulk Hogan discusses "Wrestle-mania" with Richard Belzer, as Mr. T strengthens his arms. Moments later, Belzer would feel the strength of Hogan's arms.



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# TOP WRESTLE

## YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

**ASK THE STARS**  
Sports Review Wrestling  
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Rockville Centre, NY 11571

### THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

**"If you could be in the ring with anyone in the world, who would you choose?"**

**Submitted by:**  
**J.T. Circe,**  
**Hollywood, CA**



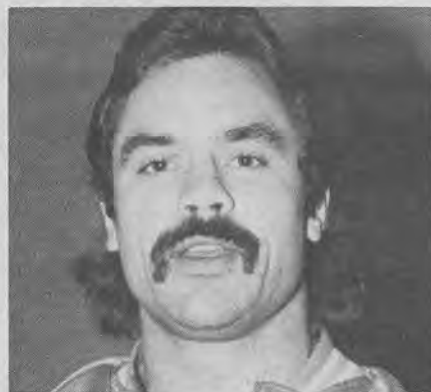
**CAPT. LOU ALBANO**

"If I could get in the ring with anyone it wouldn't be my mother-in-law, it wouldn't be my insurance agent, it wouldn't be my paperboy who's broken three of my windows this year—no, it would still be that low lying Scottish earthworm, Roddy Piper. After what that monster has done to me, my reputation, and the entire world of professional wrestling, it would be my distinct pleasure to teach him his final lesson in the ring."



**GORGEOUS JIM GARVIN**

"There's only one person I want to get into the ring with and we all know who that is. It's not my fault I can't get a no-disqualification match against Rick Martel. He's scared to death of me in that kind of match because he knows the first no-DQ match he signs with me will be the last match he has as champion. I'll kick his boring bag of Canadian bones clear back to Moosehead, or wherever the hell he comes from."



**RICK RUDE**

"I would love to hack it out with my sixth-grade gym teacher, Mr. Mollo. I was a little skinny kid back then and Mollo had it in for me. Every chance he'd get, Mollo would make fun of me in front of our whole class. Sometimes he'd even kick me and smack me, saying, 'How come you're such a pansy, kid?' Man, would I like to come face to face with that slob. I would teach him the lesson of a lifetime."



**KING KONG BUNDY**

"I would like to line up all the puny wrestlers that stand between me and a title shot and fight them one after another, until there are none left. That way nothing will stand in my way to the championship. I'm tired of all the damn politics that prevent me from becoming the number one contender. I'm impatient, and when I get frustrated I get more dangerous than I normally am. I want the title now."



# RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



**IVAN KOLOFF**

"I would like to get in ring with your Mr. President Ronald Reagan. He thinks he can joke about blowing up Russia on radio in front of millions of people. I'd like to get him in bearhug and tell him some good funny Russian jokes. When the time is right for war, it will be your president who is hiding in some bomb shelter while all the stupid Americans who voted for him die. And I will be drinking vodka in celebration in Moscow."



**MICHAEL HAYES**

"It's no secret who I want to wrestle, man. Get me Ric Flair and get him to me immediately. I've been wrestling for too long and I'm too good not to have won the NWA title by now. I've got it all squared with the rest of The Freebirds: When I win the belt I'll let Terry and Buddy defend it every once in a while. It'll be like getting a new Corvette and letting your friends drive it. We'll have a gas."



**CHRIS ADAMS**

"I know it's impossible, because he'd never be stupid enough to agree to it, but I want Gary Hart. The one thing I learned is that you come into this world alone and that's the way you leave. And in between you better learn to take care of yourself. I don't need Gary Hart anymore than I needed the Von Erichs. He turned on me like a bad dog and it's now time for the dog to get hit."



**WENDI RICHTER**

"I would love to go way back in time and wrestle Moolah when she was in her prime. That way I could shut up all of those know-it-all critics who feel that I lucked out when I beat her for the title. I'm sure they'll go around saying that I was lucky to beat Lelani Kai at 'Wrestlemania.' On second thought, maybe I'd like to find myself in the ring with all of those hot shot wrestling critics. Then we'd see who has the goods and who doesn't."



**ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL**

"I guess the only thing left is for Hawk and I to go into a padded room and wrestle each other. That's about the only way either of us is gonna know what it's like to sweat during a wrestling match. The Road Warriors are in need of a little exercise and competition. We've been wrestling clowns like the Hennigs for too long. We're getting tired of these three-minute matches. We want some competition."



**SGT. SLAUGHTER**

"Give me two minutes in the ring with every wrestler who has ever blasphemed our great country and I would be a happy man. I swear I would make them all pay for their evil ways. These men need to be taught a lesson and I believe that the best lesson is one taught collectively. If Sheik Adnan Al-Kassie sees Mr. Saito getting beat up, then maybe he'll rethink his ways. That's why I want them all at once. What a dream."

# BACK ISSUES OF

## Inside Wrestling

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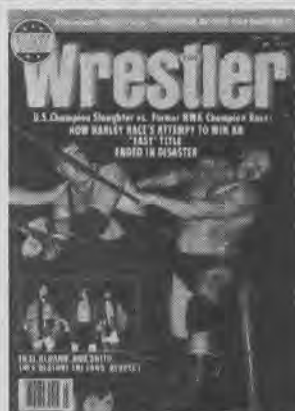
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# WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

## WENDI RICHTER

THE RECENT DRAMA of the NCAA basketball playoffs served to illustrate an important point about the world of sports. Georgetown, the defending champion and the overwhelming favorite to repeat, was upset by an upstart Villanova team. Not since the days of the great UCLA dynasty has a champion been able to capture consecutive college basketball titles. In fact, in almost every sport (the notable exception being hockey, where the New York Islanders held the Stanley Cup for an astounding four years running) it has become increasingly difficult for a team to maintain its grip on a title for more than a single season.

The longevity of a champion is recognized as the only true indicator of their ability. The talent to retain the skill, motivation, and dozens of other intangibles that contribute to a championship season is the real litmus test of athletic excellence.

So it is with wrestling. When we think of the real legends of the sport we think in terms of Lou Thesz, Buddy Rogers, Bruno Sammartino, Verne Gagne, Nick Bockwinkel, and Harley Race—men who held the title on more than one occasion for an extended length of time. All of these men have risen beyond the ranks of ordinary wrestlers through not only their skill, but their resilience and determination. Hoping to join those stars someday in the eyes of history are Dusty Rhodes and Ric Flair, men who have captured the world title at least twice, and Bob Backlund, who reigned as WWF champion for almost six years.

Add to that list of potential immortals, unique only in gender, but certainly not in accomplishment, Miss Wendi Richter. Upon her victory over Lelani Kai to recapture the World Women's title, Richter has been voted *Sport Review's* Wrestler of the Month.

For Richter, the victory was sweet vindication. Wendi had been attacked by critics ever since she ended Fabulous Moolah's staggering 27-year (talk about your legends) title reign almost a year ago. Many claimed her victory over Moolah was lucky, that Moolah had designed the pin but had fallen wrong and Richter was fortunate to escape with the title.

Unfortunately for Richter, the critics' words rang prophetic. Lelani Kai, under the watchful eye of Moolah, upended Richter and snatched the title out from under her. It seemed as if Richter was destined to join the ill-fated club of Tommy Rich, Stan Stasiak, and Kerry Von Erich, all undeniably talented wrestlers, yet all unable to possess a world title for more than a few weeks.

Richter had other plans, though. Signed for a rematch against Kai on the much ballyhooed "Wrestle-mania" card, Richter devoted herself to a regimen of strict training. Once again enlisting the aid of her Rock 'n' Wrestling entourage of Cyndi Lauper, Dave Wolff, and Lou Albano, Richter sweated out through weeks of training and finally declared herself fit and primed to recapture the title.

Her claims were again reviled by wrestling critics and a title victory at "Wrestle-mania" seemed improbable. For one thing, she was besieged—as were most of the other wrestlers on the card—by interview requests almost daily. Her composure and credibility were constantly challenged by the enormous prematch hype and publicity.

More important, Richter injured her arm in a match in upstate New York several weeks earlier and it appeared as if she might have to bow out of the match. Determined now more than ever to recapture the title, Richter rested her arm until the day before the match.

The Women's title match was "Wrestle-mania's" seminal, scheduled directly before the Hulk Hogan-Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper-Paul Orndorff grudge tilt. The hysteria in Madison Square Garden at that point had become frenzied as everyone had forsaken his seat and stood cheering and clapping wildly.

Kai and Moolah strutted cockily into the ring, Kai displaying the championship belt in a gloating flourish. Richter's stride was more purposeful, her look more resolute, as she was accompanied to the ring by Lauper and Wolff. The two wrestlers glared at each other from across the ring, both anxious for the match to begin.

Kai took an early advantage using her quickness and agility to tie Richter up in a series of leglocks and armbars. Richter countered with typical grace, and several times had Kai in trouble. However, as had occurred in their previous match, Kai backed Richter into her corner where Moolah joined in and started to beat on the ex-champ. Cyndi Lauper implored the referee to stop Moolah from interfering, but each time the ref would check, Moolah would back off.

Finally, Kai backed Richter into the corner again, only this time Wendi kicked back and rolled Kai over for the pin to regain her title, silence her critics, and place herself among wrestling's elite.

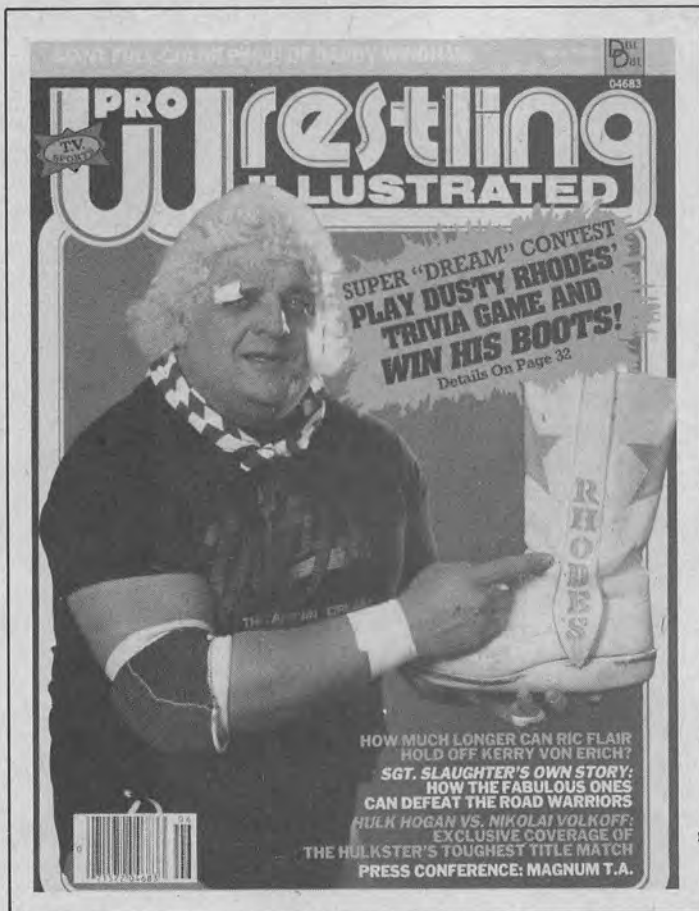
Although "Wrestle-mania" contained several important matches—including a tag team title change—*Sports Review Wrestling* feels that Wendi Richter displayed her championship style in the most dramatic fashion and is proud to honor her as "Wrestler of the Month." □



Wendi Richter clutches the World Women's belt after defeating Lelani Kai.



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# INTERVIEW

## JIMMY SNUKA



*Jimmy Snuka is nothing if not controversial. Beginning his career in the Pacific Northwest as a fan favorite, Snuka did not turn bad until he began wrestling in the Mid-Atlantic region in the late 1970s. Arriving in the WWF under the tutelage of Capt. Lou Albano in 1982, Snuka devoured the opposition on his way to several celebrated title matches against then-champion Bob Backlund. He and Albano then had a falling out over a contract dispute, and soon afterward Snuka resumed his crowd-pleasing ways.*

*Last year, Snuka suffered the deepest humiliation of his life when, during a segment of "Piper's Pit," Roddy Piper conked him on the head with a coconut and rubbed a banana in his face. Shortly after, Snuka was attacked by Piper in Madison Square Garden and was hospitalized for three months. That set off a feud that matched the Chris Adams-Von Erich family wars in the intensity of its violence and hatred.*

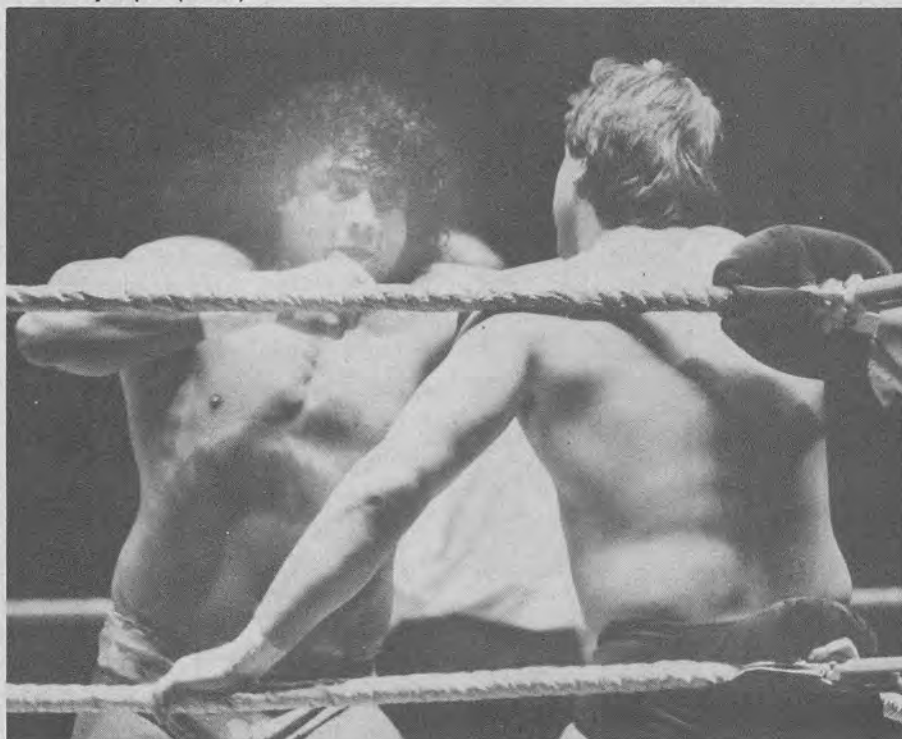
*In the middle of the year, Snuka's cousin, The Tonga Kid, joined him in the WWF and the two battled Piper and his crew throughout the country. The Tonga Kid recently left the WWF for the Pro Wrestling U.S.A. group, leaving Snuka on his own.*

*Senior Editor Bill Apter spoke with Snuka at the press conference preceding the "Wrestle-mania" card, in which The Superfly served as a third in the corner of Hulk Hogan and Mr. T as they took on Piper and Paul Orndorff with Cowboy Bob Orton in their corner.*





Based on their vicious battles of the past (above), it is hard to conceive of Jimmy Snuka and Rick Steamboat as a tag team. The Superfly has devoted his career to ridding wrestling of Roddy Piper (below).



**Q:** Jimmy, this is certainly a far cry from your home island of Fiji.

**A:** Ah, but how true, my good brother Bill. There is only peace and serenity, only blue water and good times. Here there is pressures, badness, and Roddy Pipers.

**Q:** You mentioned Roddy Piper. The man haunts you, doesn't he?

**A:** You're right. Roddy Piper is part of me forever. I can't shake him, no matter how hard I try. I think about the hospital, I think about the coconuts and bananas, I think about his insults, and I get pains in my head. When people see me like that they know to stay away.

**Q:** How can you exorcise the demon of Roddy Piper, Jimmy?

**A:** Roddy Piper is a dead cat. We have men from all over the world who seek a piece of his hide. Brothers Hulk Hogan and Mr. T, my man Andre the Giant and Junkyard Dog all have scores to settle with Piper. As long as I'm in on the ending I'll be happy. As long as they leave a little piece for The Superfly. Only then will I be happy. Only then will I have peace.

**Q:** What about the title. Would you ever push for a championship match with Hogan?

**A:** Hulk is my main man and I don't think the championship could be in more capable hands. Of course I would like to be champion. Every wrestler would like to be champion, but right now I am satisfied. As long as I keep getting shots at Piper, I'll be satisfied.

**Q:** What kind of advice do you get from the fans?

**A:** The fans are wonderful to me and that's the reason I keep on going. I've been bad in my time, Bill Apter, but the fans have seen it in their hearts not only to forgive me, but to support me like I never expected. If the fans want me to go for the title, then I'll do it.

**Q:** Fair enough, Jimmy. Now, I've heard rumors about you and Ricky Steamboat forming a tag team. This would be of great interest to both the fans and the WWF area



Snuka and Piper almost came to blows at the press conference preceding "Wrestlemania." WWF promoter Vince McMahon stands between the two adversaries.

rulebreakers. Do you think that you two could bury the hatchet of the past and create a successful team?

**A:** Me and Ricky had some battles in the past, didn't we, Billy? Ah, my friend those days are like a lifetime ago for The Superfly. Me and that fella are not the same people. Jimmy Snuka wants Rick Steamboat as his tag team partner. Steamboat is from the islands, too. Steamboat flies like The Superfly. Together we would dizzy up Nikolai Volkoff and The Sheik.

**Q:** How does Steamboat feel about it?

**A:** I spoke to Ricky last week. He is very, very anxious to get things moving.



Snuka gets down low to deliver a chop to Piper's midsection (left). Holding Snuka's legs, Roddy falls back, forcing The Superfly's throat into the ropes (above). Snuka, teaming with The Tonga Kid, will not allow Cowboy Bob Orton to tag his partner, Piper (below left).

**Q:** I will certainly be keeping an eye out for that. Based on your feud of a few years ago, the team of Superfly Jimmy Snuka and Ricky Steamboat sounds as unusual as Jimmy Snuka and Capt. Lou Albano being friends. What about you and Albano?

**A:** It was with Albano that I first learned the taste of great success in the WWF. Although we didn't hear many cheers, it didn't matter







Snuka unleashes a series of blows that has Piper staggering backward.

back then. The Captain then ripped me off very bad, taking all of my money. We fought, Albano and I, we fought long and hard. And then Albano supported Roddy Piper, encouraged him to attack me. I even suspect the coconut was Albano's idea. So now Albano is good. My friends, my family, even people I don't know have told me to stay away from Albano. They say, "How can you trust him after all the things he's done to you?" My reply is simple. Do not people trust me after all the dishonest things I used to do? Every man deserves a second chance in life. That is a way of the Islands.

**Q:** Jimmy, did it upset you that The Tonga Kid left for Pro Wrestling U.S.A.?

**A:** I'd really rather not comment on that, brother, if you don't mind.

**Q:** Good or bad I've enjoyed watching you fly through the rings now for many years. Any thought toward retirement?

**A:** As long as my mind and body remain conditioned and as long as I know the fans support me I will continue to wrestle. I have a nose for this kind of lifestyle, Brother Bill Apter. I love the competition, the excitement, the head rush of activity. And as we discussed, I have a score to settle with Mr. Piper. As for you and my fans... peace. □

# Wrestling 85

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## Wrestling 85

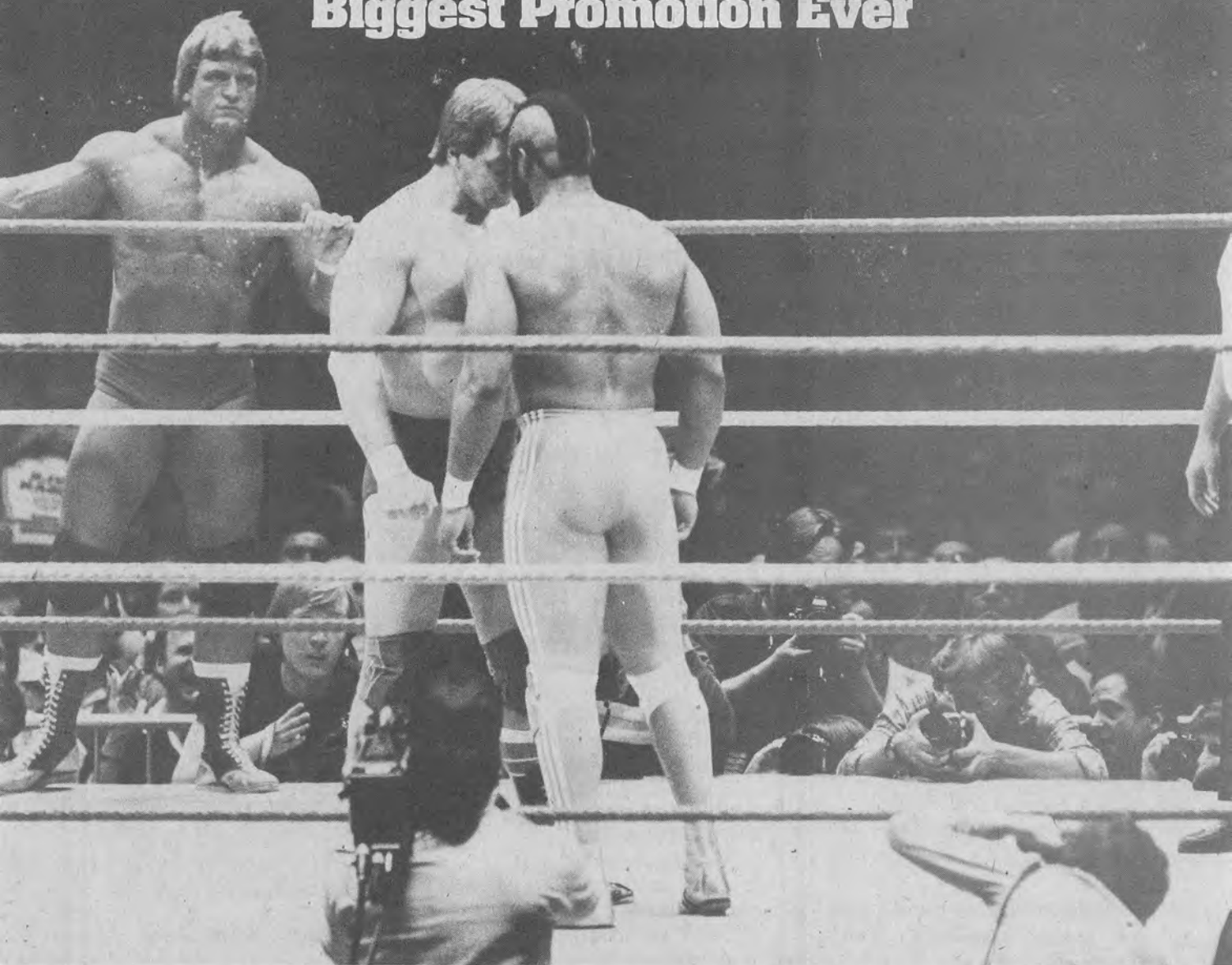
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# WRESTLE-MANIA!

## Behind The Scenes At Wrestling's Biggest Promotion Ever



**By Eddie Ellner**

**I**T OCCURRED TO me as I stood shivering outside Madison Square Garden that I'd been through this all before. Ten years ago, several friends and I sat patiently for the doors to open to another closed-circuit extravaganza, an event for which we had mowed lawns for weeks to cover the \$10 ticket price. We, along with several hundred thousand others, had feverishly taken up the cause of Evel Knievel and his dramatic attempt to leap over

the Snake River Canyon on a motorcycle.

Long after Knievel's "rocket-cycle" had taken its impotent plunge into the chilly waters of Snake River, I stared at my grease and grass stained hands and vowed never to be so duped again.

Yet here I was, standing in the 40-degree rain awaiting the start of "Wrestle-mania," the most ballyhooed and publicized event since P.T. Barnum put his ringmaster's hat in mothballs.

Already there were omens of disas-

ter. According to a ranking WWF source, more than 65 of the reported 200 theaters leased for the broadcast had been canceled, apparently because of sagging ticket sales. That's almost 35 percent, a number which had to have had the WWF promoters reaching for the antacid. Had they overestimated the potential of their product?

Beyond economics stood, precariously, the card itself. Wendi Richter had injured her arm in a match in upstate New York. Hulk Hogan and Mr. T had been violently criticized for



*The main event never lived up to its incredible hype, but then again there had never been such hype for a wrestling match before. Nevertheless, "Wrestle-mania" proved to be one of the most exciting promotions in the history of the sport*



Before Roddy Piper and Mr. T would come face to face (left), Liberace would dance with the Rockettes (above), and Muhammad Ali would be announced as the out-of-the-ring referee (right).

Dusty Rhodes and Ric Flair is not an ancient one. Placing in Ali's hands the main event, a match seen worldwide by between 500,000 and one million people, smacks either of being the cheapest publicity stunt in history or of just plain stupidity. If Ali belonged anywhere that day, it was in the audience, munching on hot dogs and signing autographs.

However, my cynicism and fears certainly appeared groundless in light of the festive atmosphere that surrounded the Garden that afternoon. The hoopla was everywhere.

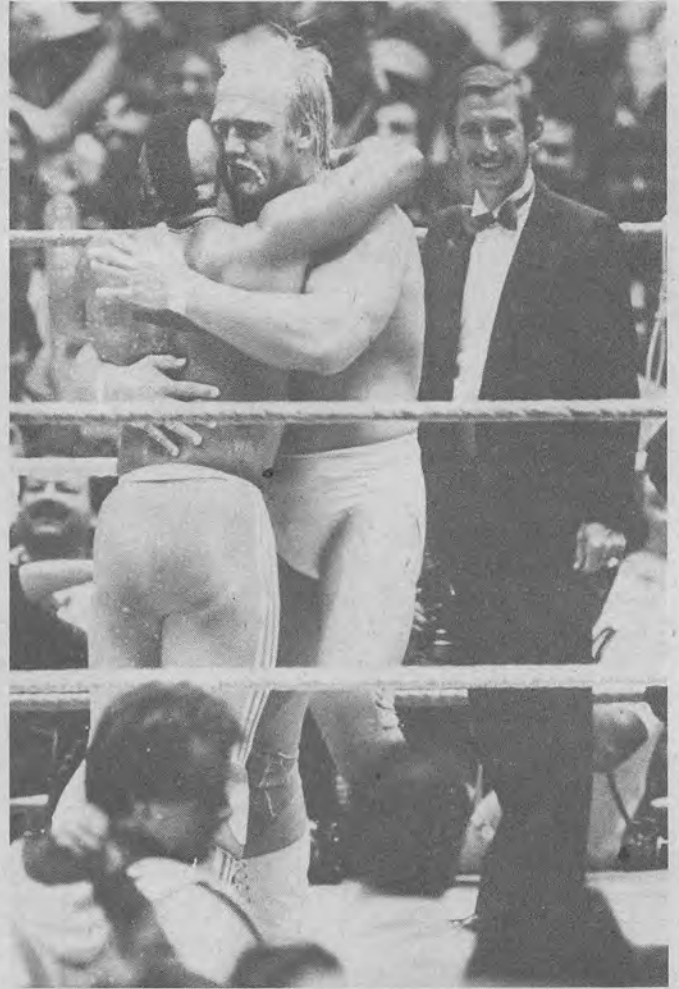
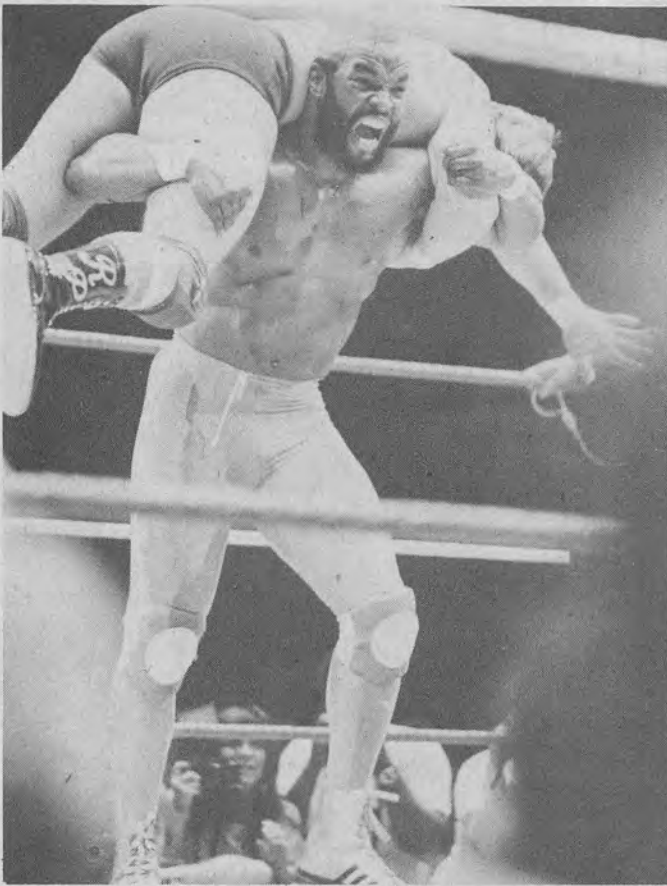
For a crowd that had paid between \$25 and \$100 to walk through the door (100 percent to 800 percent above the regular ticket price), they seemed especially animated. The money was already spent, so on this day at least all the fans wanted to think about was what they were about to see. "To see Mr. T beat the stuffing out of Roddy



Piper is worth twice what I paid," said Gary Ehrlich of Atlantic Beach, New York. "Something like this comes along once in lifetime." I recalled a similar claim, made by a sprout of equal exuberance 10 years ago, about some motorcycle madness, but decided not to dampen young Gary's spirits. I learned from talking to several dozen fans that what separated "Wrestle-mania" from the rest of the cards was its diversity. One fan I spoke to, from Queens, New York, didn't even consider the Hogan-Mr. T vs. Piper-Orndorff match the main event. He had

hosting *Saturday Night Live* 12 hours before "Wrestle-mania" was to begin. And the question of Mr. T's involvement in *any capacity*, much less his role as part of the main event, still remained a sore spot for many fans who posed the not-so-unreasonable question of "Who is this Mr. T and why is he wrestling?"

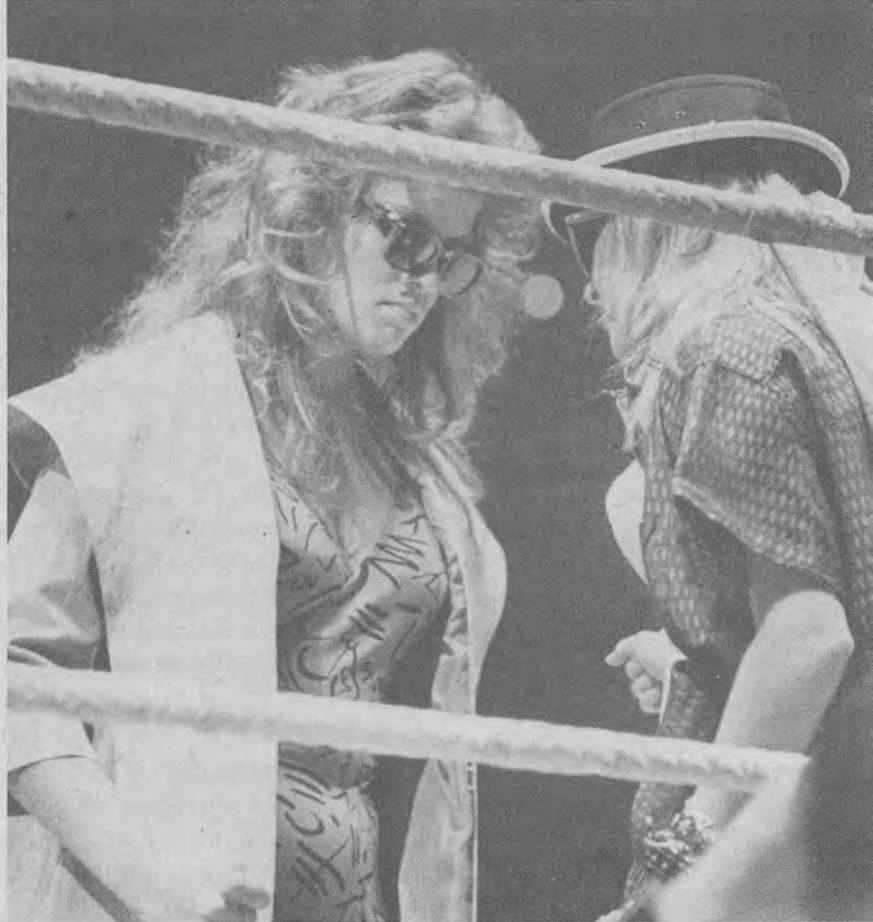
Another controversy surrounded the promoter's choice of Muhammad Ali as guest referee. The memory of Joe Frazier stopping prematurely the million-dollar Starrcade match between



Mr. T, whose wrestling ability was seriously doubted coming into the match, lifts Paul Orndorff for an airplane spin (above). After the match, the victorious Mr. T and Hogan fall into each other's arms as ring announcer Billy Martin looks on (right).



Lelani Kai had the World Women's belt (above) and Wendi Richter and her manager, Cyndi Lauper, put their heads together to try to come up with a way to get it back (right). In the end, Lauper is having some fun (far right)!





come to see Wendi Richter regain her title from Lelani Kai.

Another fan, from nearby Newark, New Jersey, had never seen King Kong Bundy in person and couldn't wait to see if he was as awesome as everyone said he was.

The feeling among several of those in attendance was that this was to be Junkyard Dog's coming out party. As Annie Seide of Hackensack, New Jersey, said, "The Dog's gonna show everyone today what he's made of. Everyone in the country is gonna see how good Junkyard Dog is. He's gonna beat the pants off of Greg Valentine and win the Intercontinental title."

And, of course, most everyone couldn't wait for Hulk Hogan and Mr. T's battle with Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff. Just ask Lisa Dalia of Syracuse, New York: "I've been waiting months to see Roddy Piper beat up that overstuffed ape and today I'm finally going to see it in person. I can't wait."

Obviously, not everyone felt the same.

By 1:30, all the talk had become

cheap, all opinions were soon to be confirmed or disproved. As ring announcer Howie Finkel approached the microphone to welcome the country to "Wrestle-mania," the buzz in the Garden became drunk with excitement. For better or worse, "Wrestle-mania" had begun.

Three hours later, as the last exhausted fan limped out of the Garden, the only controversy remaining was to select from an afternoon of highlights the most memorable one.

Every match seemed to possess a magic of its own. Tito Santana showed nary a sign of his knee injury, bowling over The Executioner, as the Garden throng chanted, "Arriba! Arriba!"

Rick Steamboat impressed the New York audience with his slick display of aerial tactics as he picked apart Matt Borne.

The most awesome performance of the day belonged to King Kong Bundy, who scowled threateningly at the fans before making S.D. Jones wish he had called in sick. Time of the match: *Nine seconds.*

The best incident of the day oc-

curred toward the end of the David Sammartino-Brutus Beefcake match. After Beefcake had thrown Sammartino out of the ring, Sammartino was attacked by Beefcake's manager, Johnny Valiant. To the rescue came none other than the "Living Legend," Bruno Sammartino. As the fans went berserk, Bruno, oblivious to any possible damage that might befall his spiffy designer sweater, attacked Valiant with a daddy's vengeance. Suddenly we were transported back 20 years to the days when Bruno owned the Garden, the fans, and the city.

It wasn't safe to go to the bathroom. I made a quick exit for a soda and missed Andre the Giant's body-slam of Big John Studd, but was able to catch Andre cheerfully playing hot scramble with the \$15,000.

The low point in terms of emotion—but certainly not in excitement—came when The Iron Sheik used Barry Windham's head as a driving range, and knocked the talented Texan out with Freddie Blassie's cane. His partner in crime, Nikolai Volkoff, fell on the unconscious Windham and suddenly the WWF had new tag team champions.

Unfortunately for Annie Seide, "Wrestle-mania" was not to be the Dog's day. Although Junkyard Dog defeated Greg Valentine on a disqualification, he was unable to wrest the Intercontinental title from "The Hammer." However, his head butts and miscellaneous boogie-woogie had the fans on their seats dancing throughout the match.

If Wendi Richter's arm injury was affecting her, then the leggy rock 'n' roller should make such injuries a habit. Richter astounded the crowd and confounded Lelani Kai as she regained her World Women's championship. With Cyndi Lauper singing her praises from her corner, Richter performed a spectacular rollover pin off the turnbuckle and sent Kai and her bespectacled manager, The Fabulous Moolah, to the showers.

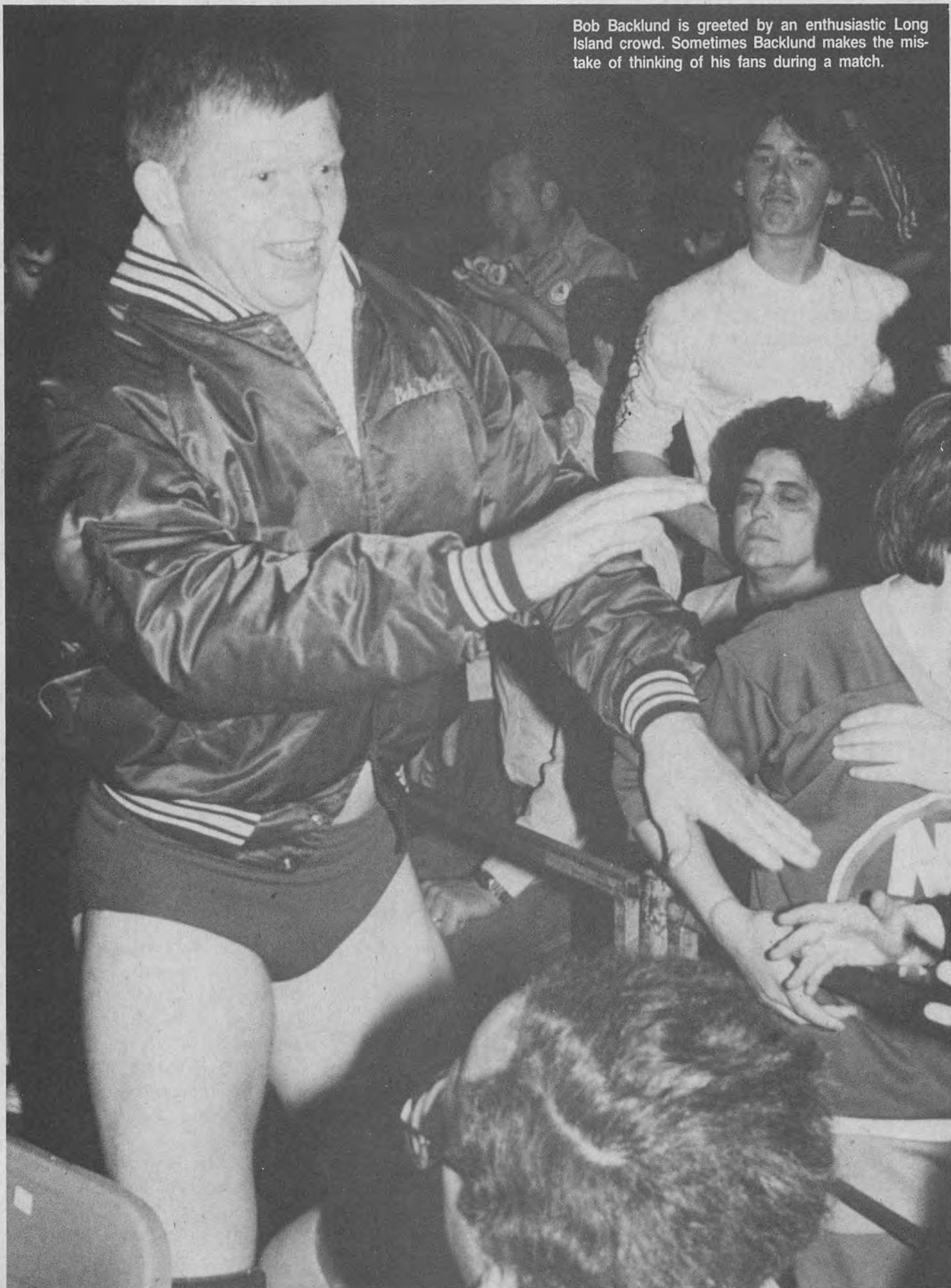
Finally, with much ado, pomp, and circumstance, the main event arrived.

(Continued on page 60)



## SPECIAL ANALYSIS:

Bob Backlund is greeted by an enthusiastic Long Island crowd. Sometimes Backlund makes the mistake of thinking of his fans during a match.





# WHAT'S WRONG WITH BOB BACKLUND

By Bob Backlund

*For six years, Bob Backlund successfully defended the WWF title. But those years are behind him. Backlund must now look to the immediate future, a future with the AWA, and a life not as champion but as contender. In this exclusive analysis, Backlund explains what he feels he needs to do in order to become champion once again*



Backlund rams Masked Superstar's head into the mat. It's important for the former WWF champion to reshape his thinking to that of a challenger working his way back into contention.

I WANT TO thank the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* for asking me to write this article. When they first approached me with the idea a few months back, I must admit I was hesitant to try and analyze myself on paper.

But as I put more and more thought into the idea, I realized that by looking at myself in this way, I was able to come face to face with some aspects of my current career that I might otherwise not think about too often.

And when you do put your thoughts on paper, they have a different feel to them than when they're in your head. Somehow they have more authority. They seem more permanent. And they seem like they're a product of someone else, not yourself. And that gives you a perspective on yourself that is very rare indeed.

As I look through the notes that I've put together over the last few weeks, I realize that one of my real stumbling blocks is the six

years I spent as WWF champion.

I know that a lot of fans are tired of hearing this, but I really do feel like I'm still the champion. I remember those matches in the Northeast, those title defenses against wrestlers like Sgt. Slaughter and Larry Zbyszko, and then I look at these wrestlers in the AWA today, and the memories come flooding back all over again.

But you see, I have to think of myself as a champion, because the power of positive thinking is

one of the strongest powers of all.

Then again, it's difficult to reconcile my feeling as champion with the reality that I am now a contender. Anyone who tells you there's no difference between being a champion and being a contender is a fool—or has never worn a championship belt around his waist.

Making the transition from full-time champion to full-time contender is not easy. Defending the title four or five times a week is one thing; wrestling five or six times a week in order to climb that ladder of contention and get even one title match is something completely different.

I think that may be my biggest trouble, even now, a year after leaving the WWF. The adjustment to contender's life is a difficult one to make after six straight years as champion. But I'm working hard on it.

And it seems to me that the fans are having just as hard a time adjusting to me as a contender as I'm having adjusting to a contender's career. When I wore the WWF belt, I was cheered everywhere I went. There was a special relationship between me and my fans.

Today it's kind of mixed. I still feel that there's a special relationship there, but there are also a lot of fans who don't appreciate the efforts I'm making. Maybe they're fans of the WWF more than they are fans of wrestling, and I guess that's okay, too.

But it can be confusing to a man when he's cheered one night, and then the next night there are some jeers mixed in with those cheers. That only makes it that much more difficult to step into the ring and do my very best.

But to show you the conflict that a wrestler must live with, it's almost as difficult to have the fans behind you, in a way, as it is to have them against you. See, I like

to be close to my fans. So when I come out to the ring, and the fans are cheering me, I want to go out into the seats to shake hands with my fans, to meet them, be with them, and bring us that much closer to each other.

And then when I step into the ring, my mind is buzzing with the

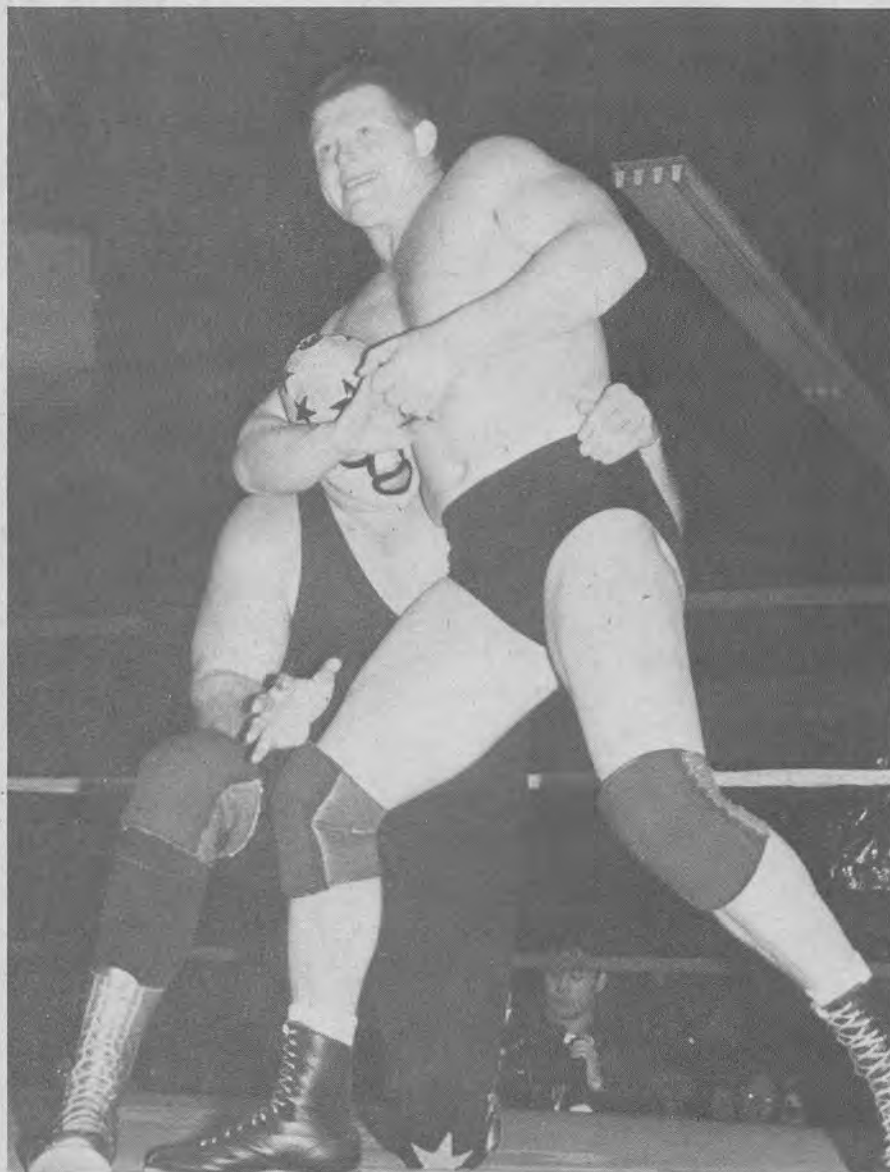
excitement of the fans. That's good, and sometimes it helps me do my best in my match. But sometimes my mind is more on

---

A simple twist of the wrists has Masked Superstar in tremendous pain (below). Masked Superstar bends Backlund's back over the top rope (bottom).







Backlund's headlock lowers Masked Superstar to his knees (above). Superstar slams Backlund's head into the officials' table (below). Bob says he will never use such tactics to further his career.



the fans than it is on my opponent, and that's bad. In fact, it's the worst mistake any wrestler can make. I see myself slipping into that trap far too often to suit me.

As far as my style inside the ring goes, I like it. I'm a man of science, and I do my best in every match to keep that match on as purely a scientific level as possible. I feel that's very important, not only to me, but to the sport of wrestling.

I've been criticized for not being aggressive enough in my matches. I've been told to capitalize on my opponents' errors more. I've been told to slip in what I would call cheap shots in order to gain and maintain an advantage over my opponent.

I won't do that. Maybe I'm wrong for that, and maybe that's one of the things that will make my path to the title that much more difficult. I don't care. I will never lower my standards in order to win a match or a title.

If I can't make it to the top being Bob Backlund, then maybe being at the top isn't worth it.

But you see, I feel that the top is worth it, and I feel that the AWA title is the top right now. Rick Martel has made the AWA title more honored, respected, and important than ever before. And I am going to work to get there, I'm going to work hard.

I may have to make a change here and there. I may have to concentrate more on my ring style than on pleasing my fans. I may have to spend a little more time coming to grips with my contender's status, and I may have to work really hard to place the events in the WWF behind me once and for all. But I will work toward doing all that, and I will work toward winning the world title.

But if I can't do it with honor and sportsmanship, then I'll never do it at all. That's a promise. □

# MIKE VON ERICH:



## Will The Shadow Of His Brothers Eclipse His Career?

**O**VER THE LONG and decorated history of professional wrestling, dozens of brother combinations have risen to prominence.

Jack and Jerry Brisco were a very successful tag team, winning the NWA World tag team championship on several occasions, and

Jack went on to win the NWA World title twice. Terry Funk and Dory Funk Jr. both rose to notoriety as premier singles wrestlers, and both managed to capture the NWA World title. Ronnie and Jim Garvin are two brothers with different philosophies toward wrestling, but they both maintain highly successful ring careers.

Perhaps the most popular

brother combination, however, is the trio of men known as the Von Erichs. Kerry, Kevin, and Mike Von Erich each have enjoyed spectacular levels of adoration from fans not only in the United States, but worldwide.

The Von Erichs are remarkably close with each other. Indeed, it is often said that to harm one Von Erich is to incur the wrath of all three Von Erichs.

Similarly, the victories of one Von Erich are victories for the entire family. When Kerry Von Erich

*Photos by Scott Romer*



***He's the youngest of the three Von Erich brothers active in professional wrestling. And though he was voted 1984's Rookie of the Year, Mike Von Erich still has a long way to go before establishing his own identity in the mat sport***



Jim Garvin, a longtime rival of the Von Erich family in Texas, puts Mike Von Erich in the camel clutch. Mike, a true Von Erich, does not know the meaning of the word "quit."

won the NWA World title from Ric Flair, it was a victory for the family as much as it was for Kerry personally.

So with the youngest of the brothers, Mike, well into his soph-

omore year as a pro, the question of individuality begins to become important.

Like any wrestler in the sport, Mike Von Erich would like to establish himself with solid creden-

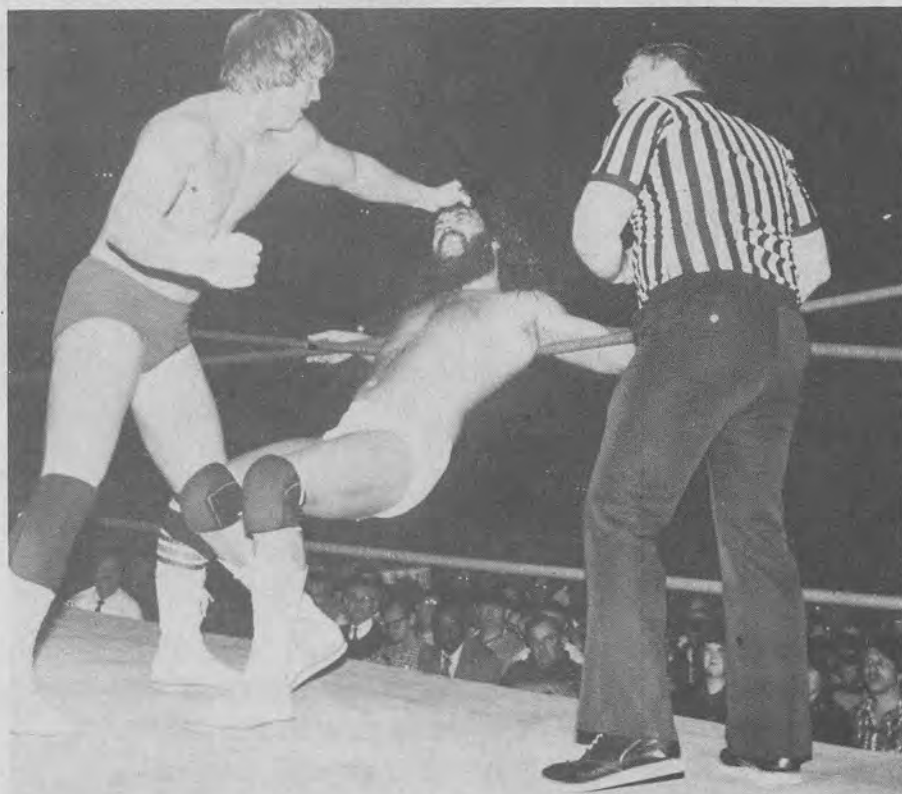
tials, and not have to rely on the reputations of his brothers in order to achieve success.

"Mike already has a heck of a list of accomplishments behind him," said Brian Adidas, a close friend of the Von Erichs. "He won the Rookie of the Year award for 1984, and he captured the American heavyweight title during that rookie year. That's not too shabby for 12 short months."

But with two older brothers capturing the attention of the wrestling world and making history on their own, will Mike Von Erich's career get lost in the process?

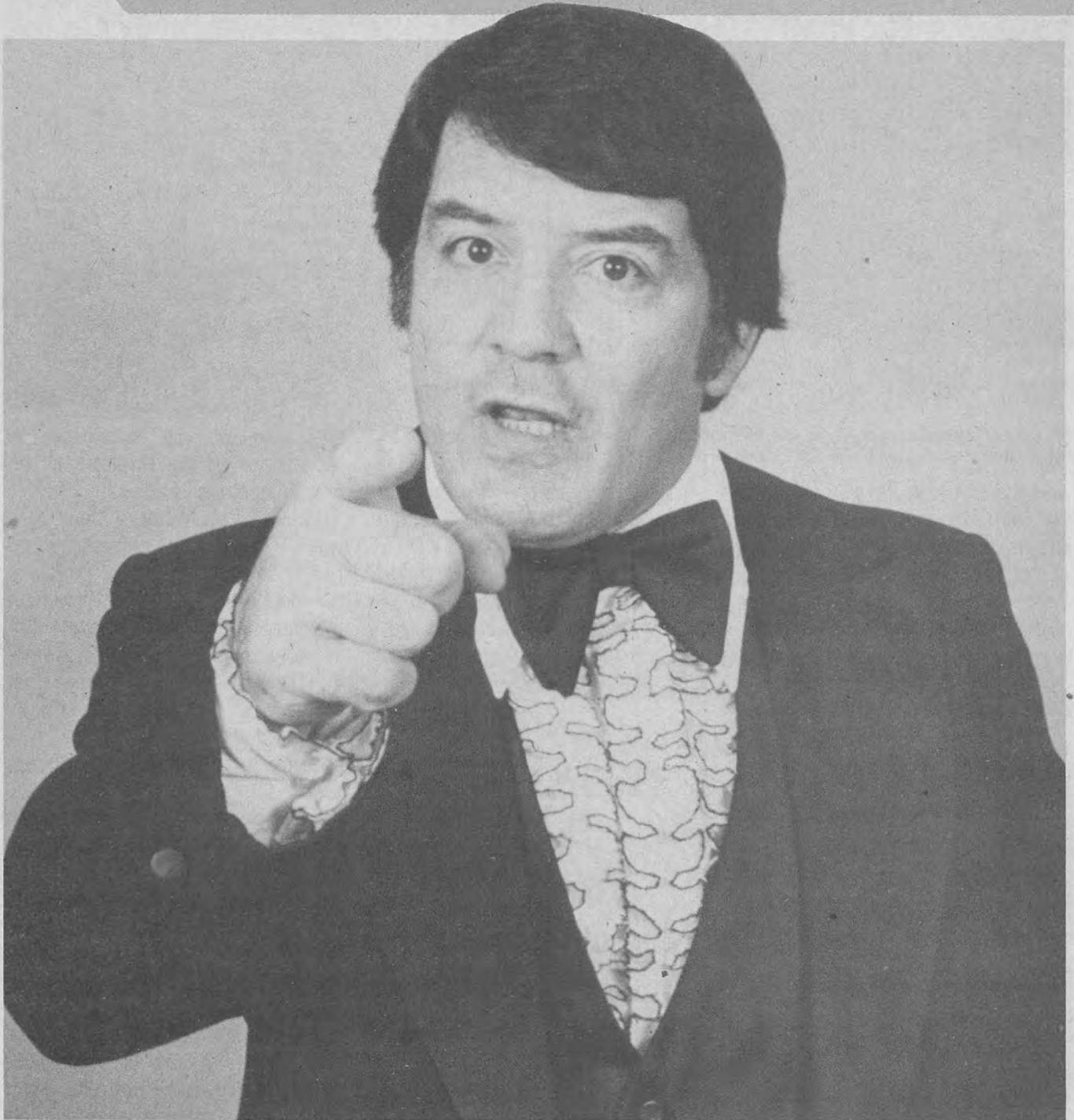
"I understand what you're saying, and you're making a good point," said Tommy Rogers, one half of former World Class tag team champions The Fantastics. "Mike's got two older brothers who make a lot of headlines. When Kerry won the title from Flair, all the attention was placed on him. When Kevin was feuding with Chris Adams, all the attention was placed on him. Really, the greatest attention on Mike came when he won the Rookie of the Year honors, and that passed by

*(Continued on page 58)*



Von Erich, who has become considerably more aggressive than he was in his early matches, takes advantage of Garvin's predicament.

# PAUL JONES:



***In recent years, Superstar Graham's career has been uneven at best. Tours of the Florida, Mid-Southern, AWA, and WWF areas were interspersed with mysterious disappearances from the sport. Graham is now in the Mid-Atlantic, and his new manager, Paul Jones, says that he will restore Graham's career to its former greatness***



# "I CAN MAKE SUPERSTAR GRAHAM GREAT AGAIN!"

**P**AUL JONES TRIED to adjust the cast on his left arm, but it would barely budge. He reached into his briefcase and removed a thin ruler, slipped it under the cast, and scratched his forearm.

"Sure, just an itch, right? Yeah, just an itch. If you ever had a cast on your arm, you'd know it's agony. And this is only the slightest thing I have to put up with. You wouldn't believe what this cast has put me through in the weeks since Jimmy Valiant broke my arm with an ax handle. Valiant will soon learn of the wrath of Paul Jones and Superstar Graham."

Contrary to the way fans usually see him on television, Jones was speaking quietly, though no less forcefully. He kept his voice low so as not to disturb Graham, who was meditating in the corner of the dressing room. Graham was standing up, but he was standing in the corner of the room, facing the walls.

"This is one of the most vital aspects of Graham's training," Jones explained. "There is a particular *tao* of wrestling, and Graham is keyed into that *tao* and is the sport's premier practitioner of the *te*."

Graham's left palm seemed to rest on one wall, while his right palm rested on the other wall. A second look, however, revealed an intensity of pressure in Graham's arms that could only come about through massive isometrics.

"Allow me to explain," Jones said proudly. "Superstar Graham lives in total harmony with the *tao*, which is in fact the way of life, the source of life. The *tao* is manifested through the *te*, which is to say



Superstar Graham strangles Jimmy Valiant (above) and prepares to ram his head into the ringpost (right). Valiant grabs a chair and retaliates (below).



the power. Graham has the ability to allow the *te* to flow throughout his entire being.

"Forget about that stupid song, 'Kung Fu Fighting,' that Graham enters the ring to," Jones said with a wry laugh. "That's only for the pimply pre-teen pre-pubescent idiots. That has no relation to the in-

ner philosophies by which Graham is now guiding his life. That's simply a piece of flash to appease the promoters and aid Graham in his prematch psychological warfare. If you want the truth, read the writings of Lao-Tzu. Look, there."

Jones motioned to the corner. Wrapped around Graham's waist

was a black sash with several Chinese characters that, Jones explained, represent some of the 5,000 key picture-symbols set down in ink on bamboo by the legendary Lao-Tzu in the sixth century B.C.

"But you want to speak of more mundane matters," Jones said somewhat condescendingly to the reporter. "Very well."

Jones was asked why he had recently acquired the contract of Superstar Graham, and what he expects to be able to do with Graham in the near future.

"There's something you must understand about Superstar Graham," Jones said. "This is a man of remarkable skill, and even more remarkable potential. Within him lies the power, and it's only a matter of when and how he is able to harness that power."

As Jones spoke, he nodded slightly in Graham's direction. Graham continued his isometric exercise, seemingly oblivious to the conversation about him going on just a few feet away.

"Over the last several years, the talents of Superstar Graham have been totally and completely wasted," Jones said. "Back in 1977 and 1978, Graham was at his peak. He was managed by the late, great Grand Wizard, who led him to the WWF heavyweight title.

"But in the years since that excellence, Graham has undergone some deep-seeded changes in his philosophy toward life," Jones continued. "He has learned the meaning of the *tao* and the power of the *te*. He has read and studied under the greatest Far Eastern masters of the martial arts. And he has assimilated this knowledge into his own way of life.

"But in his recent appearances in Florida, the AWA, the WWF, and the Mid-Southern areas, Graham's abilities were not used to their fullest. I intend to amplify Graham's knowledge of the martial arts, place him on a proper regi-



One of the things Jones did for Graham was to remind him to focus on his opponents' injuries. The Superstar fires a karate chop at Valiant's cut forehead (above) and then further bites open the gash (below).



men of training, and guide him to supremacy in the NWA. I can make Superstar Graham great again, and I will make Superstar Graham great again."

At this point, Graham slowly turned away from the wall, faced Jones and the reporter, and executed several quick chops and thrusts through the air with his arms. He then stood quietly, waiting for the reporter to finish with Jones and leave the dressing room. The reporter was through with his questions, but Jones wasn't quite done with his pronouncements.

"Our first target," Jones said, waiving his cast, "is Jimmy Valiant. The next target will be

Dusty Rhodes and the NWA TV title. From there, we will be aiming at Ric Flair and the NWA World title. Our goal is nothing less than total domination of the NWA. My brilliant strategic genius coupled with Graham's considerable experience and knowledge, plus his revitalized approach toward the sport, will guide the two of us to the very pinnacle of the NWA and the wrestling world."

Graham, still quiet, smiled. Jones, finished with his exhortations, also smiled. Two men, one mind. With this rare element of unity in their favor, perhaps Jones and Graham have a chance at success. □



# BLOOD MONEY!

## Wrestling's Goriest Moments!



Lord Jonathan Boyd awaits medical attention after this 1973 match between the Royal Kangaroos and the Briscos.

**W**RESTLING IS A rugged sport, perhaps the most rugged of all. The one-on-one aspects of professional wrestling place the sport's participants in a kind of physical danger that no other professional athlete must face.

At its best, professional wrestling is an elegant interplay of physical skills as one man tests his knowledge of scientific maneuvers against another man's knowledge of defensive wrestling.

But there are many times when matches deteriorate into fistfights. Or worse.

When that happens, blood can be shed. And when the combatants involved in a match are particularly bitter enemies, a wrestling match can in fact turn into a bloodbath.

Should that match take place inside a steel cage, or should it utilize a chain, or a strap, or a steel pole—then the results can be downright grisly and disgusting.

The editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* scoured through the magazine's extensive photo files to uncover the horrifying moments you see on the pages that follow. These moments remind us of the danger that is ever-present in professional wrestling, of the horror that these athletes must sometimes face, and of the gruesome consequences of the sport that all wrestlers should endeavor to avoid at all possible costs.

*Warning: If you are squeamish, turn immediately to page 46!*

# Wrestling's Goriest Moments!



Left: Steve Keim, cut badly on the head and leg, tries in vain to pull himself up during this 1976 match with Cowboy Bob Orton. Above: Stan Lane rips into Keim during one of their horrible 1981 battles. Of course, these two men are now best friends and comprise The Fabulous Ones.



Above: An enraged Tor Kamata attempts to yank out Mark Lewin's eyes. Right: This time it's Kamata's opponent, Abdullah the Butcher, who is spilling the blood.



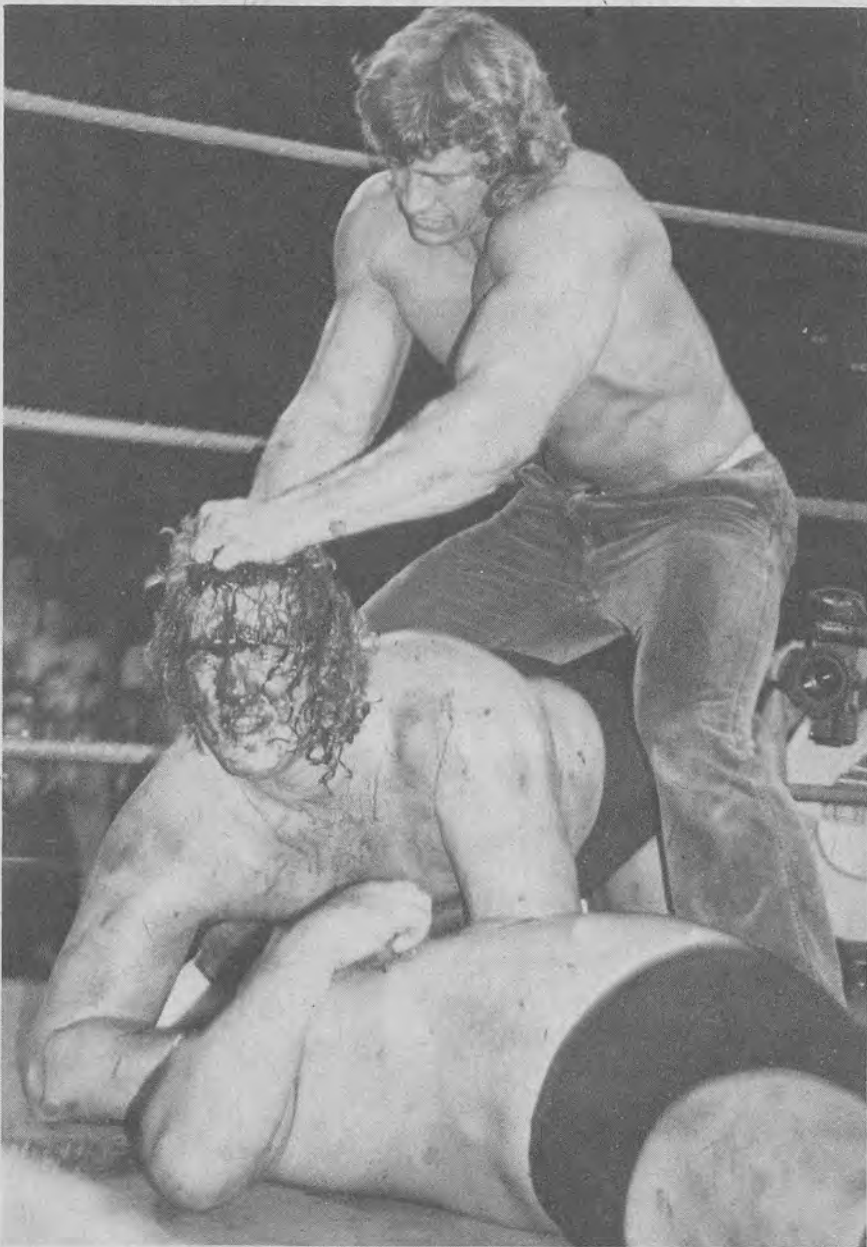




Above: Buzz Sawyer barely has the strength to lift Tommy Rich for a piledriver during their memorable 1983 cage match. Below: Dick Murdoch addresses the crowd after being mutilated by Cyclone Negro.



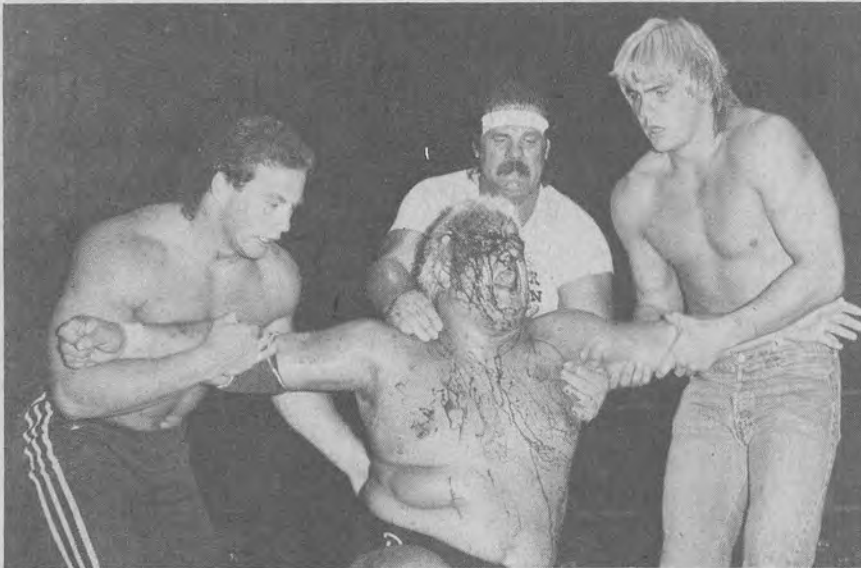
Above: Fred Blassie takes a chunk of John Tolos' flesh during one of their 1970 Los Angeles bloodbaths. Below: Even special referee Kerry Von Erich could not control the war between Terry Gordy and Killer Khan last November in Texas.



# Wrestling's Goriest Moments!



Above: Rocky Johnson, bloody and battered, will be declared a disqualification winner after being thrown over the top rope. Below: Brad Armstrong, Blackjack Mulligan, and Barry Windham try to prevent Dusty Rhodes from going into shock.



John Paul Henning is led from the ring after losing to Fritz Von Erich in St. Louis in 1963.



Left: Referee Doug Smith tries to determine if Chief Jay Strongbow is fit to continue his 1975 match against Brute Bernard. Above: Jimmy Snuka needs emergency attention after being ambushed by Ray Stevens, Lou Albano, and Fred Blassie in 1982.





Left: The Sheik, a vicious man who was barred from wrestling in several states, punctures Shohei Baba's head with his teeth. Above: The Sheik was often repayed for his brutality.



Managers have to realize that if they are going to interfere in matches, there might be a price to pay. Ten years ago in Los Angeles, Sir Oliver Humpdink receives medical attention from Dr. Bernhardt Schwartz as Buddy Roberts, then a member of the Hollywood Blonds, looks on.



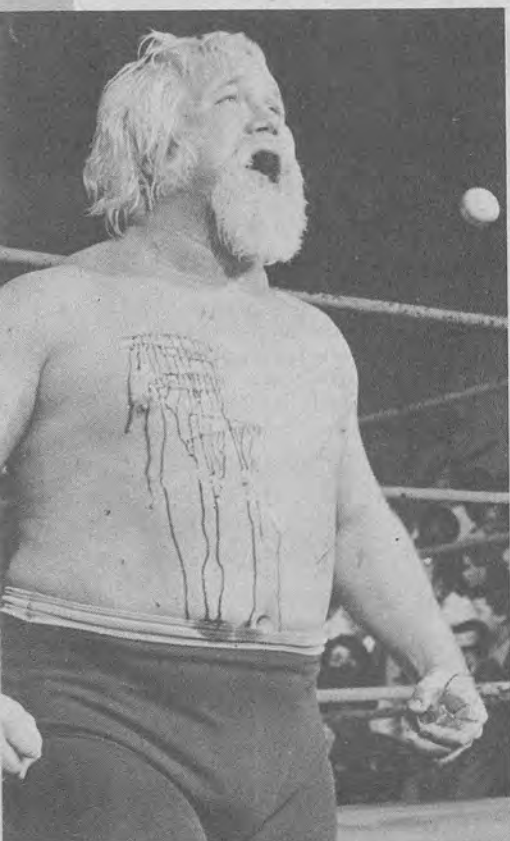
Above: The flow of blood into Crusher's right eye hampers his effort against Nick Bockwinkel. Below: Bruno Sammartino, who shed very little blood throughout his glorious career, received this beating from Bobby Duncum.



# Wrestling's Goriest Moments!



Left: Ernie Ladd never had moments like this as a football player! Above: Buddy Fuller took a savage beating from Mario Galento, but he won this tournament match and is presented with a trophy by former heavyweight boxing champion Rocky Marciano and promoter Paul Jones in 1965. Below: Roddy Piper almost lost the hearing in his left ear in a match against Greg Valentine in 1983.



Left: Moondog Mayne, for reasons unknown, would cut his skin with a broken glass. Below: Blood has a strange effect on Jimmy Valiant. Right: Young Barry Orton, cut on the head, nose, and lip, had second thoughts about his career choice.







Left: Blood stains the bottom of Victor Rivera's boot as he grinds his foot into Big Bad John's wounds in 1974. Above: Afterward, Rivera is stitched up.



was Russia vs. Iran when Ivan Koloff met The Iron Sheik four years ago in Virginia. Koloff, who suffered lacerations on his arm that would require 18 stitches, chews The Iron Sheik's head.



Above: Billy Haynes' career was almost ended in a recent attack by Rip Oliver. Below: Jerry Lawler, straining to see through his own blood, rubs Jimmy Hart's face into barbed wire.



# OFF WRESTLIN

Ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. These ratings are compiled by the editors and are universally recognized as official.



Sgt. Slaughter

## TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 3—**HULK HOGAN**  
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 6—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 7—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 8—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 9—**GREG VALENTINE**  
243, Seattle, WA
- 10—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
*AWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**IVAN & NIKITA KOLOFF**  
*NWA World tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 524 pounds
- 3—**NIKOLAI VOLKOFF & THE IRON SHEIK**  
*WWF tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 607 pounds
- 4—**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**  
*Mid-South tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 453 pounds
- 5—**STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE**  
*Mid-Southern tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 479 pounds
- 6—**DENNIS CONDREY & BOBBY EATON**  
*No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title*  
Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 7—**RON BASS & BLACK BART**  
*Mid-Atlantic tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 546 pounds
- 8—**DUSTY RHODES & MANNY FERNANDEZ**  
*No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag team title*  
Combined weight: 565 pounds
- 9—**BARRY WINDHAM & MIKE ROTUNDO**  
*No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title*  
Combined weight: 475 pounds
- 10—**MARK & JAY YOUNGBLOOD**  
*U.S. tag team champions*  
Combined weight: 467 pounds

NWA and AWA ratings are compiled with the assistance of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters. "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices.

## NWA

*World Champion:*

**RIC FLAIR**

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 2—**JERRY BLACKWELL**  
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 5—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 7—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford, England
- 8—**JESSE BARR**  
243, Portland, OR
- 9—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX
- 10—**BUZZ TYLER**  
285, Rock Hill, SC

## AWA

*World Champion:*

**RICK MARTEL**

236, Quebec City, Quebec

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 3—**BOB BACKLUND**  
242, Princeton, MN
- 4—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**  
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 6—**JERRY BLACKWELL**  
474, Stone Mountain, GA
- 7—**KING TONGA**  
274, Tonga
- 8—**MASKED SUPERSTAR**  
282, Atlanta, GA
- 9—**MR. SAITO**  
247, Osaka, Japan
- 10—**BRAD RHEINGANS**  
248, Appleton, MN

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**  
305, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 6—**MAGNUM T.A.**  
245, Chesapeake, VA
- 7—**JUNKYARD DOG**  
260, New Orleans, LA
- 8—**KEVIN VON ERICH**  
239, Denton, TX
- 9—**RONNIE GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 10—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, New York, NY

## MOST HATED

- 1—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 2—**CHRIS ADAMS**  
225, Stratford, England
- 3—**JOHN STUDD**  
364, Washington, DC
- 4—**JIM GARVIN**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—**GINO HERNANDEZ**  
224, Houston, TX
- 6—**TULLY BLANCHARD**  
235, San Antonio, TX
- 7—**PAUL ORNDORFF**  
253, Brandon, FL
- 8—**TED DIBLASE**  
247, Omaha, NB
- 9—**JESSE BARR**  
243, Portland, OR
- 10—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
295, Tulsa, OK



# CIAL G RATINGS

Below are the ratings for the top regional wrestling areas of the country. These ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestlers, promoters, and reporters.

## WWF

Champion:

**HULK HOGAN**

305, Venice Beach, CA

1—**GREG VALENTINE**

243, Seattle, WA

2—**RODDY PIPER**

231, Scotland

3—**TITO SANTANA**

245, Mission, TX

4—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**

274, Sunset Beach, HA

5—**KEN PATERA**

256, Portland, OR

6—**JUNKYARD DOG**

260, New Orleans, LA

7—**JOHN STUDD**

364, Washington, DC

8—**PAUL ORNDORFF**

253, Brandon, FL

9—**JIMMY SNUKA**

250, Fiji Islands

10—**COWBOY BOB ORTON**

245, Kansas City, KS

## GEORGIA

1—**RONNIE GARVIN**

231, Montreal, Quebec

2—**TOMMY RICH**

248, Hendersonville, TN

3—**BOB ROOP**

273, Tampa, FL

4—**RIP ROGERS**

238, Atlanta, GA

5—**OLE ANDERSON**

256, Minneapolis, MN

6—**T-BOLT PATTERSON**

245, Atlanta, GA

7—**RON STARR**

238, Shreveport, LA

8—**THE ITALIAN STALLION**

240, Naples, Italy

9—**RON RITCHIE**

240, Tampa, FL

10—**DEVIL BLUE**

257, parts unknown

## WORLD CLASS

1—**CHRIS ADAMS**

225, Stratford, England

2—**GINO HERNANDEZ**

224, Houston, TX

3—**KERRY VON ERICH**

260, Denton, TX

4—**ONE MAN GANG**

468, Chicago, IL

5—**KEVIN VON ERICH**

239, Denton, TX

6—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**

252, Tampa, FL

7—**BRIAN ADIDAS**

238, Denton, TX

8—**MIKE VON ERICH**

220, Denton, TX

9—**RIP OLIVER**

245, Tampa, FL

10—**KELLY KINISKI**

242, Vancouver, BC

## MID-ATLANTIC

1—**MAGNUM T.A.**

245, Chesapeake, VA

2—**BUZZ TYLER**

285, Rock Hill, SC

3—**DUSTY RHODES**

302, Austin, TX

4—**TULLY BLANCHARD**

235, San Antonio, TX

5—**RON BASS**

265, Pampa, TX

6—**JIMMY VALIANT**

251, New York, NY

7—**WAHOO McDANIEL**

260, Midland, TX

8—**KONGA THE BARBARIAN**

265, Chicago

9—**SUPERSTAR GRAHAM**

260, Paradise Valley, AZ

10—**DICK SLATER**

235, Tampa, FL

## FLORIDA

1—**RICK RUDE**

246, Robbinsdale, MN

2—**JESSE BARR**

243, Portland, OR

3—**BRIAN BLAIR**

237, Tampa, FL

4—**WAHOO McDANIEL**

260, Midland, TX

5—**BUGSY McGRAW**

268, New York, NY

6—**TERRY GORDY**

289, Chattanooga, TN

7—**THE MISSING LINK**

273, parts unknown

8—**MICHAEL HAYES**

255, Marietta, GA

9—**MIKE GRAHAM**

229, Tampa, FL

10—**HECTOR GUERRERO**

243, Mexico

## MID-SOUTH

1—**TERRY TAYLOR**

225, Vero Beach, FL

2—**TED DiBIASE**

247, Omaha, NB

3—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**

223, Marietta, GA

4—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**

280, New York, NY

5—**BUTCH REED**

265, Kansas City, MO

6—**STEVE WILLIAMS**

295, Tulsa, OK

7—**JAKE ROBERTS**

243, Baton Rouge, LA

8—**ICEMAN PARSONS**

245, St. Louis, MO

9—**BUDDY LANDELL**

232, Jacksonville, FL

10—**TIM HORNER**

235, Morristown, TN

## MID-SOUTHERN

1—**RANDY SAVAGE**

245, Sarasota, FL

2—**JERRY LAWLER**

234, Memphis, TN

3—**EDDIE GILBERT**

222, Lexington, TN

4—**IRON MIKE SHARPE**

271, Winnipeg, Manitoba

5—**LANNY POFFO**

228, Sarasota, FL

6—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**

234, South Wales

7—**JERRY OSKE**

243, Hartford, CT

8—**DUTCH MANTEL**

242, Oil Trough, TX

9—**MR. WRESTLING**

240, parts unknown

10—**SWEET DADDY SIKI**

238, Toronto, Ontario

## NORTHWEST

1—**KARL STEINER**

250, East Germany

2—**BOBBY JAGGERS**

265, Dunlap, KS

3—**BILLY HAYNES**

245, Portland, OR

4—**MIKE MILLER**

260, Memphis, TN

5—**KENDO NAGASAKI**

248, Singapore

6—**MEGA MAHARISHI**

260, Portland, OR

7—**ROCKY VENTORO**

237, New York, NY

8—**JERRY GREY**

241, Tampa, FL

9—**MR. EBONY**

242, parts unknown

10—**RICKY VAUGHAN**

245, Tampa, FL

For period ended April 10, 1985

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

**A champion or a world champion?** There is no question that the singlemost controversial aspect of our ratings is the fact that the NWA and AWA champions are listed as "world champions," while the WWF champion is listed simply as "champion."

The very first installment of "Ratings Analysis," printed in the September 1983 issue of our sister publication *The Wrestler*, dealt in part with this question. At the time, Adrian Adonis was laying claim to the "undisputed world heavyweight championship" as sponsored by Southwest Championship Wrestling.

At that time, disclaiming the "world" status of Adonis' title, we wrote:

*Nevertheless, we feel it is inappropriate at this particular time to automatically elevate Adrian Adonis' title to the level of Ric Flair's NWA World title and Nick Bockwinkel's AWA World title. Adonis' title has been in existence only a few months. The NWA has been in existence for nearly 80 years. The AWA championship, in existence since the late 1950s, is the only other world title we recognize. The WWF, which was formed in 1963, is recognized as the largest regional title in the world, something more than the Mid-Atlantic title, but less than the NWA World belt.*



**Adrian Adonis**

The wrestling community, more interested in reducing the number of world title claimants than increasing it, joined with us and refused to recognize Adonis' claim. At the time, we recognized the world championships of the NWA and AWA. We did not regard the WWF title as a world title for two reasons: the WWF champion was prohibited from making title defenses against scientific wrestlers, and the title was only defended in the Northeast part of the United States.

But in the last few years, the WWF has undergone a remarkable expansion. Numerous television outlets have been added to the WWF's already formidable network of broadcast and cable stations, and WWF expansion has seen cards promoted and held in arenas throughout the country rather than simply in the Northeast.

And let's not forget that the WWF title has changed hands twice in two years: The Iron Sheik won the belt from Bob Backlund, and Hulk Hogan in turn won the belt from the Sheik.

Hogan's popularity is undeniable, but is popularity alone a reason to elevate the WWF championship to "world title" status? Like Backlund, Hogan only defends his title against rulebreaking opponents. NWA champion Ric Flair and AWA champion Rick Martel both defend their titles against scientific and rulebreaking competitors.

Another major argument against elevating the WWF title to world championship status is the fact that when Hogan travels around the country, he defends his title against the same rulebreakers he would meet had he remained in the Northeast. Both Flair and Martel, on the other hand, travel the country and face top regional champions: When Jerry Lawler held the Mid-Southern heavyweight title, for example, he got the chance to wrestle both Flair and Martel.



**Ric Flair**

During major Japanese tours, both Flair and Martel defend their belts against top Japanese competitors such as Jumbo Tsuruta, Shohei Baba, Tenryu, and Riki Chosu. Hulk Hogan, it should be noted, has also done this, defending his belt against such Japanese stars as Tatsumi Fujinami and Antonio Inoki.

As you can see, there are many pros and cons in the argument for elevating the WWF title to world championship status. The staff of *Sports Review Wrestling* is divided on this issue, and we would like to throw the question open to the readers of this magazine.

What do you think? Should the WWF title be recognized as a world championship? Should we continue to refer to the title as simply the "WWF heavyweight title"? Or do you have a third alternative you would like to see make its way into our ratings system.

We want to hear from you. Send your comments and arguments to: WWF Ratings Analysis; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. We will take all comments into consideration, and may be taking action on this issue in the near future.

**The number one man in the AWA:** From this issue forward, the Americas champion will be rated number one in the AWA behind the AWA World champion. Precedent for this type of rating appears in the WWF, where the Intercontinental champion is rated number one behind the WWF champion, and in the NWA, where the U.S. heavyweight champion is rated number one behind the NWA champion. The Americas title is currently held by Larry Zbyszko, now rated number one behind AWA champion Rick Martel.

**The address for mail:** Suggestions and comments about our ratings system and "Ratings Analysis" are always appreciated. On occasion, readers' comments and questions will be printed in this column. Send all mail to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*; Box 48; Rockville Centre; NY 11571. □



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## MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

bird names. Do they feel their quest is a courageous one? Do they feel that three men ganging up on one qualifies as a heroic venture? The kicker is that they are failing.



Though Terry Gordy has the better of Ric Flair here, reader Carole Airobe is confident that the NWA champion will turn back The Freebirds' challenge.

First of all, Ric Flair will eventually prove himself to be the greatest champion of all time. He has repeatedly turned back the critics who have said that he is an untalented showman by defending and retaining his belt against every challenger thrown at him. Put in the same ring with Hulk Hogan or Rick Martel, Flair would eat them up alive. As far as The Freebirds are concerned, again, their mission is a laugh riot. When they moved to Badstreet U.S.A., property values definitely fell through the basement. Hayes, Gordy, and Roberts should give up the ship before they're all turned into chicken wings.

CAROLE AIROBE

Haifa, GA

## SINGS THE BODY RUDE

I've never considered myself a screaming, fawning or overly libidinous young lady—never, that is, until I saw Rick Rude wrestle for the first time. Aside from his peerless physique, his chiseled features, manly mustache, and ice-melting eyes, Rude is one of the most capable wrestlers in the sport today. Already he's captured the Southern heavyweight title and has one of those gorgeous eyes on the NWA crown. All I know is that Rick can be rude to me anyway. I just hope he never leaves Florida. We love him here!

SUSIE SCHONEBERG  
Plantation, FL

## FORK IN THE ROAD

Face it: It's time to break up The Road Warriors. That cry has been heard before with other teams in other sports but never has the message been so urgent. The Warriors are unbeat-

*(Continued on page 52)*

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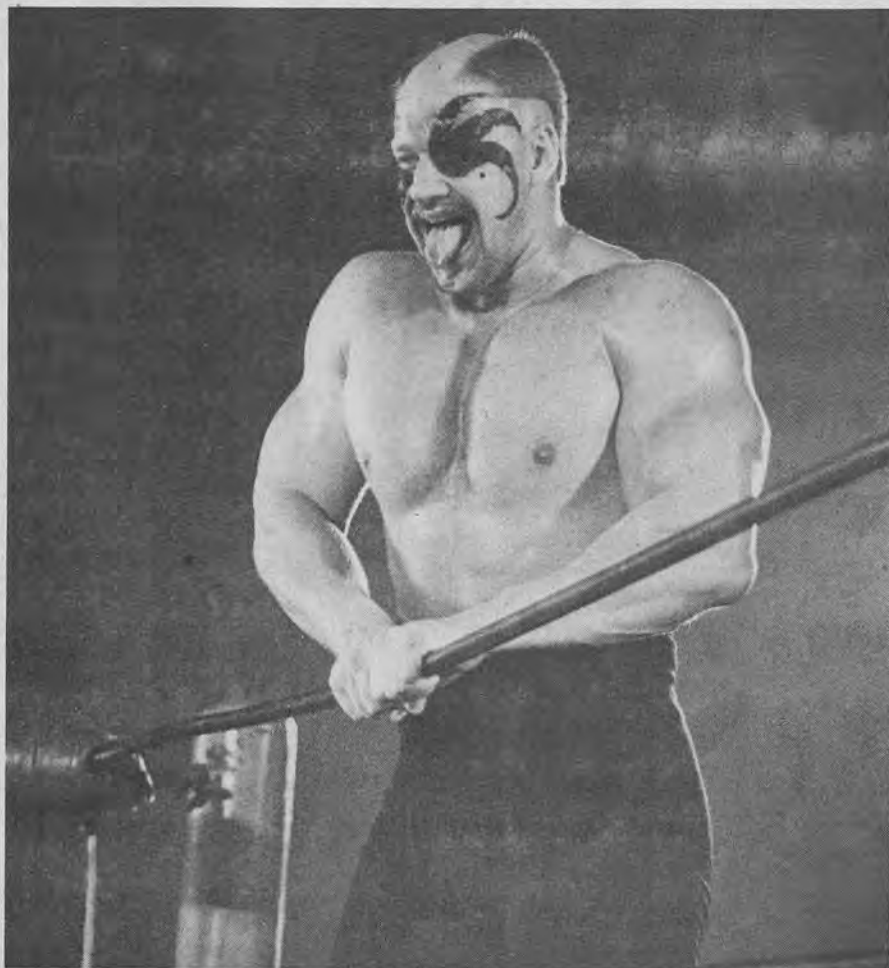
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## MAILBAG

(Continued from page 51)



Road Warrior Hawk anxiously awaits a tag from Road Warrior Animal. Reader Ryan Anderson recommends that The Road Warriors be forced to break up.

able, that fact is plain and obvious. There is no way they can be defeated by any combination of wrestlers in the country. The manner in which they casually annihilate top-line wrestlers day in and day out is frightening. If they maintain their pace—meaning if they don't get bored—they will soon have made a mockery of tag team wrestling as we know it.

Can any fan say they actually look toward a Warrior match with a curiosity as to who is going to win? Agreed, watching The Road Warriors dismantle their opposition is an awesome sight, but the appeal of wrestling lies in its competitive spirit, where two men or two teams square off and do battle and the winner is unknown. If baseball consisted only of the World champion

Tigers playing the inept San Francisco Giants, who'd be interested? The old adage of "on any given day..." doesn't even apply here. In order for the Warriors to lose, they'd have to wrestle with broken legs and arms, and even then the outcome would be uncertain: Their opponents might have a chance.

A while back there ran a story asking the public if The Road Warriors should be banned. That is absurd. But rather than ban them, perhaps there should be official sanctions against them wrestling together. After all, as professional athletes they need a challenge, and they're certainly not getting it as a tag team. Imagine the excitement that a Hawk vs. Rick Martel match would inspire. Let's put some imagination back into the ring. Break up The Road Warriors!

**RYAN ANDERSON**

Acourt, MI ☐

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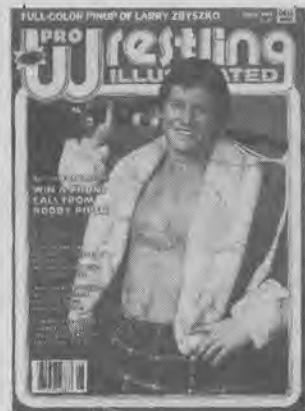
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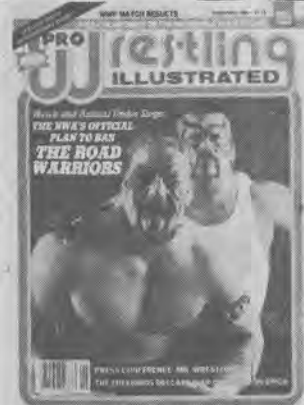
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## TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)



**OLE ANDERSON**

Until recently, Ole Anderson and Thunderbolt Patterson had held the National tag team championship. But a split developed between the two men, and defenses of the championship have been rendered impossible.

So a special tag team match has been set up: Ole Anderson will team with his cousin Arn Anderson to face Patterson and his partner for the match, "Raging Bull" Manny Fernandez.

The winning team will be the new National tag team champions.

"This arrangement makes a lot of sense to me," said Ole Anderson. "Matters have reached the point where I simply can't wrestle with Thunderbolt anymore. I carried our team for a long time, and I decided I wasn't going to carry it anymore. Arn is the man I want to team with. He's made me realize once more what it means to be an Anderson. And when April 28 rolls around, you can be sure that the new Minnesota Wrecking Crew, Ole and Arn Anderson, will have those championship

belts."

Fernandez said that he was happy to help his friend Thunderbolt in this instance.

"I'm fresh off a title reign as NWA World tag team champion," Fernandez explained. "My tag skills are right up there. Besides, it was during my match against Arn that Ole went crazy and those two Andersons double-team-attacked me. I've got some dues to pay back myself, you know. Yeah, I'm *real* happy to help out the 'Bolt!'"

—B.W. Foreman

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN:** Nine-time AWA World heavyweight champion Verne Gagne will be making a two-city comeback in the very near future. The matches will take place in Minneapolis and Chicago.

"Things have been happening here in the AWA that require my attention," Gagne told *The Tattler*, "and I'm going to take care of business the only way I know how."

In Chicago, Gagne was recently



the referee in a three-on-two handicap match between the tag teams of Sgt. Slaughter and Jerry Blackwell, and Masked Superstar, King Tonga, and Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie. Gagne was attacked by Superstar, Tonga, and Al-Kaissie, and will be teaming with Slaughter and Blackwell to face them in a steel cage match.

In Minneapolis, Gagne will be teaming up with his son, Greg, to face off against the team of Nick Bockwinkel and Mr. Saito.



**GAGNE VS. SAITO**

"Bockwinkel and Saito have been ganging up on my son for long enough," Gagne explained. "I've had to run in to matches and help my son out in a number of instances, but I'm through running in. I'm going to stand side-by-side with my son and battle these two guys. Let them fight us like men, if they know how."

Greg Gagne said that he was happy to be teaming with his father.

"It's going to be a great match," Greg said. "I'm very proud to be wrestling with my father. There's only one nine-time AWA World champion in this world, and I'm happy to be his son. Bockwinkel and Saito will learn a lesson that they won't soon forget."

—Charles F. Amberson □

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## REPORTER

(Continued from page 10)

tiger. What's a valet weigh, 130, 140, tops? What business do they have in the ring with men who weigh upwards of 250 pounds and are fighting for their professional lives? A misguided slap from a wrestler can kill a woman. Get them out. Either keep them at ringside with their hands tied or keep them in the dressing room."



Jim Garvin's valet, Precious, has served as a major distraction to AWA World champion Rick Martel.

Lewis Seide, Bedford, NY: "There is no question that men should have the right to retaliate against women valets. I recently saw Jim Garvin's valet, Precious, spray perfume in the face of Rick Martel during a match, temporarily blinding him. That act could have cost Martel his AWA championship, and you're damn right he's entitled to fight back. As far as I'm concerned, they should ban all women from ringside. They have no place in a wrestling match between two men."

Hendreika Savant, Montreal: "I think it's a woman's instinct to defend her man when he's in trouble. What happens then is her impetuosity gets the better of her and she finds herself punching a man much larger and more dangerous than herself. Now she's in trouble. I don't feel it's right for a



Nickla "Baby Doll" Roberts' blatant interference will save Tully Blanchard from being pinned by Magnum T.A. Would T.A. have been blamed for attacking the 205-pound valet?

man to attack the woman as he would his masculine opponent, though. She is much weaker than he is and he could conceivably kill her. The man must show restraint, even though the woman is at fault."

*Kent Allen, Cape May, NJ:* "Managers and valets, both male and female, should be barred from the ring. Wrestling is the only sport that practically encourages outsiders to join in the action. Look at Cyndi Lauper and Mr. T, not to mention the dozens of managers who routinely interfere and change the course of matches. The case is even more ridiculous with women. Nickla Roberts challenging a man to wrestle? What is she trying to prove?

She's grandstanding, knowing full well that no man would take her up on the offer."

*Mimi Chaplan, Detroit:* "Look, it's a woman's prerogative whether or not she wants to get involved in a wrestling match. No one is holding a gun to her head forcing her to interfere. They do it because they want to. You make your bed, therefore you must lie in it. Also, if you wish to dance, you must pay the piper. Precious knows that if she attacks Rick Martel, then Martel is more than likely to fight back. As long as these women do not seek special treatment, then I see no reason why they can't accompany their men into the ring." □

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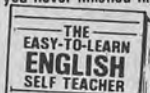
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## MIKE VON ERICH

(Continued from page 35)



Having been tossed through the ropes, Von Erich signals to the St. Louis fans that he is okay.

pretty quickly.

"The main problem with Mike will be that his brothers will get consideration before he does," Rogers continued. "Like in the second annual David Von Erich 'Parade of Champions,' for example, Kevin got the title shot against Ric Flair. Kerry gets shots at Flair all over the country.

"And Mike? Look, Mike's a great guy, and I love him like a brother, but he's going to wind up seeing his brothers get title shots before he does, and this is going to go on for a long time. Mike's gotta rack up that many more achievements in order to be considered to be on the same level as Kerry or Kevin, and that's a task I wouldn't want to wish on anyone."

*Sports Review Wrestling* caught up with Mike Von Erich in St. Louis recently where he went up against Gorgeous Jim Garvin. We asked him how he felt about his two older brothers and their success in the ring.

"Heck, I'm proud as can be of Kerry and Kev," Mike said. "When Kerry won the World title, it was a day for the whole family.

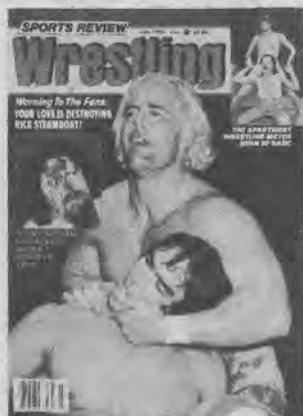
(Continued on page 62)

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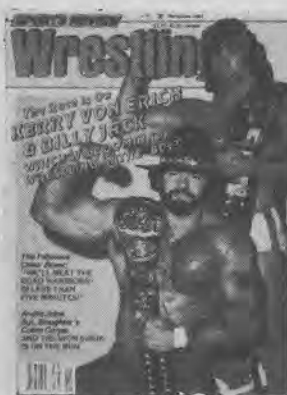
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# WRESTLE-MANIA

(Continued from page 29)

For the only time during the entire card did good taste and great wrestling finally give way to something better suited to Saturday morning cartoons. We had ex-Yankee manager Billy Martin making the ring announcements. We stared in disbelief as the guest timekeeper, Liberace, paraded his way into the ring, surrounded by a bevy of Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. As they kicked up their heels amid an eye-squinting sea of glitter, the fans became slightly unruly. This was absurd. Then Billy Martin introduced us to Muhammad Ali, who, we delightfully discovered, was to act as special referee *outside* of the ring. Former Intercontinental champion Pat Patterson was the choice as the in-ring referee and handled the action flawlessly.

The four participants were introduced and the hysteria commenced. Mr. T answered his critics with a resounding display of wrestling know-how. He put Orndorff in an airplane spin, tied Piper up in a headlock, and constantly had the two veteran wrestlers off-guard. Hogan was typically vociferous in his ring actions and Piper and Orndorff surprised no one with their illegal tactics. With Jimmy Snuka and Cowboy Bob Orton acting as thirds in the corner, the action never stopped. Even Ali got into the act, taking a swing at Orton, when the Cowboy tried to interfere in the match.

The end, which was really anticlimactic, saw Hogan pinning Orndorff, as the crowd went into a cheering frenzy. These matches were over but not soon forgotten. The general feeling was that those in attendance had witnessed a historical event, and I was not inclined to disagree.

But not all was rosy in "Wrestle-mania." Just ask the fans at the Pittsburgh Civic Arena and Washington's D.C. Armory, who had to settle for refunds when the satellite picture at their theaters failed to materialize. Or ask the fans who bought tickets at Long Island's Nassau Coliseum and



The fans cheered Andre the Giant when, after successfully bodyslamming Big John Studd, he took his \$15,000 winnings from a bag and threw it to the crowd (left). The fans booed Greg Valentine and his manager, Jimmy Hart (above), but "The Hammer" would retain his Intercontinental title belt after being disqualified against Junkyard Dog.



The lowpoint for the fans came when Nikolai Volkoff and The Iron Sheik had their hands raised in victory after defeating Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo for the WWF tag team belts.

ended up sitting *behind* the screen. And as for the bottom line of whether "Wrestle-mania" was a moneymaker or a financial flop, the promoters will probably never make that information available.

Already, the question in everyone's mind is, "What next?" and the WWF promoters will indeed have a time in topping "Wrestle-mania." However, on its own merits, "Wrestle-mania" has to be considered a success. □



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**MIKE VON ERICH**

(Continued from page 58)

And Kev—boy, there isn't another wrestler in the sport who can move with the speed and grace of Kev.

"Look, I really admire my brothers," Mike continued. "I admire Kerry's strength, Kevin's speed, and the confidence that they both have. That's a kind of confidence I hope to have someday."

But what about Tommy Rogers' point, that Mike's brothers are receiving more attention, and title shots, than him?

"That's only natural at this point," Mike said. "Kerry is a former World champion, and that places him high on the list for title shots. Kevin's been around the sport longer than any of us. It's only natural that they would get the title matches before me. I'm not worried."



Garvin grabs Von Erich by the arm and flings him toward the opposite turnbuckle.

But with the massive head start that Kerry and Kevin have over their younger brother, will Mike ever be able to catch up to their



These days, Mike's dropkick is almost on a par with his brother Kevin's. Mike realizes that he has a long way to go before he will get the same title-match consideration as Kevin and Kerry. He says he is not jealous of his brothers, however.



Von Erich sends Garvin crashing to the mat with a backdrop (above). Gorgeous Jim sneers at the fans, who are cheering Mike's advantage (below).



reputations and be considered on the same level?

"Someday, I think that'll happen," Mike said. "In fact, I'm sure it'll happen. Look, I have my fans in Texas, and they support me as much as they support my brothers. And last year, I was instrumental in the three of us winning the World Class six-man title from The Freebirds."

"Yeah, I'll come into my own," Mike said. "And maybe a year or two down the line, I'll be getting my title shots at whoever the NWA champion is. And with the World title belt around my waist, nobody's going to have any doubts about me any longer." ☐

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## WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 12)



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Bill Watts recalls this show of years ago when he applied a front facelock on TV personality Boyd Christanson. This was the same hold Hogan applied on Belzer, only Watts saw no need to cinch down on it.

wound.

Horrible scenarios of pure fantasy. To any normal way of thinking, these incredible events are completely incapable of ever taking place.

Well—not exactly.

On March 28, WWF heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan appeared on the Lifetime Cable Network program *Hot Properties*, hosted by comedian Richard Belzer. Hogan was accompanied by Mr. T, as the two men were promoting their appearance on the March 31 "Wrestle-mania" card in Madison Square Garden.

After joking with Hogan and T for a few minutes, Belzer asked the WWF champion to demonstrate a wrestling hold on him. Hogan, noting that he was going to make Belzer "squeal," placed Belzer in a front facelock.

Hogan cinched down on the hold, and an audible crunch was heard. Unconscious, Belzer slumped in Hogan's arms. Hogan relaxed the hold and allowed Belzer to drop out of his arms and fall backward, hitting his head on

the floor. A pool of blood formed under Belzer's head as Hogan slapped the comedian in the face to revive him.

Belzer, visibly stunned, jumped to his feet, and announced an upcoming commercial. As Belzer turned his back to the camera, a most grisly sight could be seen: Blood was streaming down the back of Belzer's jacket, the result of a cut in Belzer's head that would take eight stitches to close. When Belzer went backstage, he reportedly collapsed again.

A horrible incident, every bit as incredible and unthinkable as the Dwight Gooden-Johnny Carson and Sugar Ray Leonard-Merv Griffin scenarios described above. But the Hogan-Belzer incident is made all the more horrible because it is absolutely true.

If Dwight Gooden was to appear on *The Tonight Show*, and if Johnny Carson *did* ask him to throw a baseball to him, we could be reasonably certain that Gooden wouldn't throw the ball with enough force to injure Carson.

Likewise, if Merv Griffin *did* have Sugar Ray Leonard as a guest, and he *did* ask Leonard to demonstrate some boxing moves, we could be reasonably certain that Leonard would simply demonstrate punches in slow motion. He wouldn't place the full force of his strength into a blow against a television personality who has no ring experience whatsoever, and who certainly doesn't expect to be hit with anything more than perhaps a light slap on the cheek.

And that's the tragedy of the Hogan-Belzer incident. Hogan should have known his own strength. The 6'8", 305-pound Hogan should have been able to gauge the force of his facelock against the 6'1", 148-pound Belzer.

Like Dwight Gooden lobbing a baseball to a young child in a schoolyard or Sugar Ray Leonard demonstrating a punch to fellow CBS boxing analyst Gil Clancy during a boxing broadcast, Hogan should have been able to demonstrate a hold on Belzer without injuring him.

We accuse WWF champion Hulk Hogan of acting irresponsibly on the March 28 broadcast of *Hot Properties*. We feel Hogan's irresponsible actions on that program were the sole reason for Belzer's injury, and that had Hogan been more careful, he could have demonstrated the hold without inflicting injury.

Hogan is an intelligent man, a professional athlete. He is not a beast who does not know his own strength. He has the capabilities to act reasonably and rationally. He simply failed to utilize those capabilities where Richard Belzer was concerned.

As Belzer explained recently in an interview with *Sports Review Wrestling* Managing Editor Stu Saks, he didn't feel he was taking any risks. "He was very nice to me before the show," Belzer said. "He [Hogan] said he was a fan of mine. He was very nice, so I trusted him implicitly."

"I'm not against wrestling," Belzer continued, "I'm just against them hurting people who aren't as big as they are and are unsuspecting."

So are we. ☐

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• **MAKE TIME RUN BACKWARD OR FORWARD!**—A



## MEET THE AUTHORS

**GAVIN FROST, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.D.**, is Archbishop of the Church of Wicca, New Bern, North Carolina with national headquarters in Salem, Missouri, branches in several states and worldwide membership. He is Marshal of the Gold Star of England, with the right to wear the Saffron Robe and one of the very few Witches in the Western Hemisphere privileged to wear the authentic mark of initiation on his wrist. Although descended from a long line of mystics and scholars, and formerly a Vice-President and Director of International Operations for major aerospace companies, he prefers to be thought of as a humble teacher.

**Mrs. YVONNE FROST, A.A., D.D.**, with her husband Gavin Frost, devotes her time to giving private instruction and publishing *Survival*, the newsletter of the Church of Wicca, of which she is a Bishop.

Articles by or about Gavin and Yvonne Frost have appeared in such national publications as *Midnight* and the *National Enquirer*.

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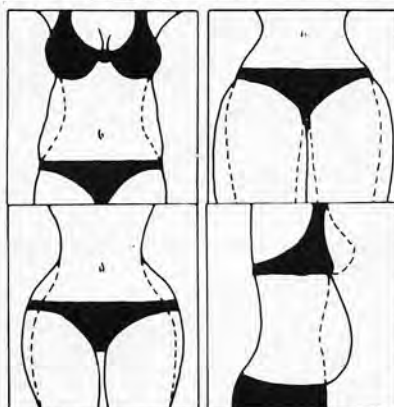
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